Trail paved over street parking

By Amanda Starling and Jason Caruso
Staff Reporters

Metered parking surrounding USF St. Petersburg was eliminated along 6th Avenue S. between Third and First streets.

Grassy medians separate single lanes along Sixth Avenue S. A complementing wide sidewalk weaves alongside the University Student Center, but the meters with matching parking spots that once lined the road have been removed for a new stretch of City Trails, a project of the city of St. Petersburg.

“The overall project was, as far as connecting with the trail, about the beautification and repurposing of the right of way,” said Evan Mory, director of transportation and parking management for the city of St. Petersburg.

The Historic Booker Creek Trail is a connecting path to the Pinellas Trail, a road used by bicyclists, longboarders, and other exercise enthusiasts. The Pinellas Trail was eliminated along 6th Avenue S. between Third and First streets.

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Continued on p. 2

The history of a city

By Joey Vars
Crow’s Nest Contributor

St. Petersburg, or “the ‘Burg,” is full of quirky and weird sights with a history that is just as colorful as its modern nightlife. Unfamiliar with the area? Returning students or students fresh to college—and the city—can acquaint with “the Sunshine City.”

1) I thought St. Petersburg was in Russia....

When the city was founded in 1888, its two founders flipped a coin to decide its name. Whoever won would have the small village of 300 people named after their childhood town. John C. Williams of Detroit lost, and the city was named in honor of Pyotr Dementiev's (also known as Peter Demens) beloved city in Russia. The first permanent structure to be built, the Detroit Hotel, was named after Williams' town and still stands today as the oldest structure in the city.

Location: Historical marker located at entrance to Demens Landing, 1st Avenue SE and Bayshore Boulevard. The Detroit Hotel located at Central Avenue and 2nd Street N. Five minute walk from USF St. Petersburg.

2) Those airplanes are way too noisy....

One of the great features of the ‘Burg is Albert Whitted Airport located across the street from the city. You can take a scenic helicopter tour of the city, go for quick trips to the beach, or, for those students who have a pilot's license, find a quicker commute to and from campus each day. The airport was originally joined with the Coast Guard station directly to the south, but advancements in air technology caused the airport to be too small for continued military use.

Location: Albert Whitted Municipal Airport, 1st Street S and Dali Boulevard. One minute walk from USFSP.

3) Birthplace of history

It should be fitting that there is an airport in downtown St. Petersburg, because, after all, we...
News Briefs

Wednesday, Sept. 3

The campus’ favorite canines are back. Therapy Dogs International returns with the fluffy, sweetest, make-you-miss-home-pups in the area. If only they would bring us some cats, too. Visit the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library’s first floor from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 4

Attention, Business majors! Or anyone who likes to be in anyone’s business. ‘Badum-bum’ Join Chancellor Wisniewska and faculty at the University Student Center – Ballroom 3 at 11:30 a.m. for an important announcement that will affect business students in their not-so-distant future. USFSP College of Business students are encouraged to bring their friends to the event, which will include free food and T-shirts.

Don’t be bored! Get on Board! See what we did there? The biannual event introduces students to campus departments and multiple student-driven clubs, organizations, and St. Petersburg civic engagement organizations. Stop by the Crow’s Nest table and see the weirdos that put together your paper.

Friday, Sept. 5

Dance, dance for the South Florida All Stars! The team hosts a two-day clinic in the Fitness Center. Prepare for hard work and the possibility of busting a move (or a hip). The clinic runs 2-4 p.m. on Friday and 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday.

Saturday, Sept. 6

Down, set, HIKE! Or just take the bus. The Mack Bus. Anyway, this Saturday, your USF Bulls football team (1-0) will host the Maryland Terrapins (1-0) at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa at 3:30 p.m. Claim your free student ticket and purchase additional tickets at GoUSFBulls.com.

Correction: A story featured in last week’s issue regarding adjunct professor Kent Curtis incorrectly stated that Curtis and Dr. Raymond Arsenault studied together at the University of Kansas. Arsenault has studied at Princeton University and Brandeis University.

By Angelina Bruno
Crow’s Nest Contributor

For students looking for guaranteed parking in the parking garage or one of the various lots on campus, USFSP offers a few different options.

Students can choose between a single-semester pass and an annual parking pass, good for the fall and spring semesters. The single-semester pass is $88 for students, while the annual pass costs $173. Residence Hall parking goes for $118 a semester and $232 annually.

Parking passes can be purchased on campus in Bayboro Hall 132, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. or online at usfsp.t2hosted.com/cmm, which includes an additional fee.

USFSP also offers commuters two options for students who do not wish to purchase parking passes. Those on a budget or who would like to share transportation to campus can take advantage of the Enterprise Car Share service or use the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) -- a public transit service, which includes 199 buses and 5,105 bus stops on 40 different routes throughout Pinellas County.

A view of the street outside of the USFSP University Student Center

Volleyball returns to campus

Photo by Emily Wehunt | The Crow’s Nest

The volleyball court began construction during the summer with funds Capital Trust Fund Committee. Campus recreation awaits the installment of lights and netting from manufacturers.

The intramural sports program, will be released when construction of the volleyball courts is completed.

By Angelina Bruno
Crow’s Nest Contributor

For now, a beach volleyball game requires a trip to the downtown North Shore Park or the Postcard Inn on St. Petersburg Beach. But that will soon change.

Beach volleyball courts are under construction behind the University Student Center.

This isn’t the campus’ first beach volleyball court. Anthony Freese, a 22-year-old senior who has studied at university since 2010, said he remembers when “the USC was a grass lot and there was only a sand volleyball court across from the parking garage.”

A date for the official opening of the area has not been released yet, as campus recreation is still waiting on nets, lights and a door entry system to be delivered. The door entry system will bar public use of the courts, as per campus recreation rules, limiting use only to USF St. Petersburg students. This will ensure the courts are available and kept in pristine condition for the use of USFSP students and campus recreation members, according to Greg Havelock, fitness and intramural coordinator for campus recreation.

“The volleyball courts are a step up in the continuing process of making USFSP even more awesome than it is. Everyone wins,” said sophomore Beenly Khoum.

The unfinished courts are estimated to cost just over $100,000, according to Havelock.

The decision to add volleyball courts to the campus was made by the USFSP administration -- without Activity & Service fee funding from student government -- earlier this summer. The courts were paid for by the USFSP Capital Improvement Trust Fund, a committee made up of students, faculty and staff, according to Campus Recreation.

“Sand volleyball is a popular and growing sport,” Havelock said. “And volleyball was how one of the most attended intramural sports at USFSP. We look forward to much more growth in participation in the years to come.”

Volleyballs will be available for students to check out from the desk at the campus recreation gym, located in the Student Life Center. Hours and programs, as a part of activity on campus is a positive as long as students use it, which I think they will,” Freese said.

News@crowsneststpete.com
Crash kills student on birthday

By Mark Wolfenbarger
Staff Reporter

On the evening of his 21st birthday, USF St. Petersburg student Jordan A. Schleimer was killed in a car accident.

Around 6:03 p.m. on Aug. 24, Schleimer was heading westbound on Bay Pines Boulevard near 95th Street at a high speed, according to Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office reports. Attempting to pass traffic, he steered onto the right shoulder of the road and part of the sidewalk, and lost control.

Schleimer, driving a 1999 Buick, was turned sideways. He careened across the center median and collided with a 2014 Toyota Prius heading eastbound. With Schleimer inside, the Buick stopped on top of a wall bordering the C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center.

The driver of the Prius, Roberta L. Cyotte, 47, was taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, the police report said.

Schleimer, an economics major, was pronounced dead at the site of the accident.

News of Schleimer’s passing was met with the sadness of his friends and classmates.

“I shared rare moments with Jordan. Not enough to call him close, though enough to be touched by his spirit and his love for life,” said Mark Lombardi-Nelson, former USFSP student body president. “Those close are still mourning, as they should.”

Others shared their condolences on USFSP’s Facebook page, The Know-It-All’s Guide to Knowing It All.

“I met Jordan through a friend at the Tampa campus and he was so much fun to hang around with,” said Tony Franco, a USFSP student.

“The world lost another great person. R.I.P.”

Deven Soondar, a political science major at USFSP, posted the Tampa Bay Times article about Schleimer’s accident, which generated the numerous responses of shock and sorrow.

“For those of you who knew him, Jordan Schleimer was a student and one of the nicest people to go to (if USFSP),” Soondar said.

“Unfortunately, he passed away yesterday evening on his 21st birthday. It’s crazy after just talking to him, he’s gone.”

Friends were received at the Brett Funeral Home at 4810 Central Ave. on Aug. 27. A funeral service followed on Aug. 28 at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church.

news@crowsneststpete.com

By Jack Moscone
Crow’s Nest Contributor

For the past two decades, skateboarding in the downtown area was illegal, resulting in a $93 fine for misconduct. But now, the ban is over.

USF St. Petersburg students cruising with longboards no longer risk a fine. With the unanimous support of the St. Petersburg City Council, skateboarders may now cruise along downtown sidewalks. Riding in the street or bike lanes is still illegal, as it is against Florida state law.

Only two citations were given last year on account of the ban.

City Council member Karl Nurse, who led the push to change the ordinance, shared his reasons for lifting the ban with The Crow’s Nest.

“I have a son who longboards, and so many people use them to commute to school and work,” Nurse said. “The ban was unwelcoming and it was time to make a change. Now, boarders can commute without breaking the law.”

Nurse added that he believed the ban counteracted the city’s goal to embrace young and creative citizens. Frequent skateboarders, including USFSP’s Longboarding Club, celebrate the news.

“The City Council said skateboards and longboards were safety hazards,” said Brandon Garbett, an executive board member of the Longboarding Club. “They asked, ‘What if you’re going too fast? How do you stop?’ We showed the council how boarders can stop and slow down in a moment’s notice down by the airport hangars.”

Garbett said that City Council supported their cause, especially Nurse. He hopes that the council goes through with plans for a downtown skate park, which he believes will generate revenue for St. Petersburg.

As for the Longboarding Club, night rides on Mondays and Thursdays are now legal.

The Longboarding Club meets in front of the University Student Center every Monday and Thursday at 9 p.m.

news@crowsneststpete.com

Plane crashed at Albert Whitted Airport

Donald Thomasson, 70, was killed in a plane crash near Albert Whitted Airport on Sunday, Aug. 31. The plane, identified as a Piper PA23, was discovered crashed near the seawall at 3 p.m. The body was retrieved that afternoon and the plane is set to be recovered on Monday.

The plane was one of a banner towing company, Aerial Banners, based at Albert Whitted. Bay News 9 reported witnesses had seen it beginning to lift off, followed by popping noises. The plane crashed nose-down and was fully submerged in water 25 feet deep.

Impression committee senator resigns

Sen. Tsigana Kubiszak, member of the three-person senate impeachment committee, resigned from her position in the Senate on Thursday, Aug. 28. Two other senators, Nicholas Patides and Carly Chaput, were appointed to the committee on Aug. 20, reviewing the impeachment memo and charges against Student Body President Cody Boyer.

Kubiszak sent an email to student government announcing her resignation. She told The Crow’s Nest that she felt overwhelmed by her schedule, and needed to take some time off of student government to understand why she wanted to be a part of it. She also expressed frustration in SG’s lack of ability to “represent the student body.”

“I feel as though some members of student government are in their positions for the interest of doing anything but working to help the student body,” Kubiszak told The Crow’s Nest in an email. She declined to comment further.

Kubiszak will return to SG when she feels more capable of representing the students, according to her resignation email.

As of Monday, Sept. 1, several student government members were unable to confirm how Kubiszak’s position on the committee would be filled, but said it would likely be similar to the original process, where a senator is nominated and voted on at general assembly.

news@crowsneststpete.com

Longboards free to cruise

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are the birthplace of commercial aviation. A little before 10 a.m. on Jan. 1, 1914, Tony Jannus flew the first commercial airline across Tampa Bay. It was the first time that a scheduled airline flew anywhere in the world. The passengers on the 23-minute flight were former St. Petersburg mayor Abram Pheil and a sack of mail bound for Tampa. While the vehicle that made the flight, the Lark of Duluth, was destroyed during landing in San Diego a few years later, a replica hangs in the St. Petersberg Museum of History, just ashore from where the historic flight launched.

Location: St. Petersburg Museum of History. Historical markers located in Albert Whitted Park, and adjacent to the St. Petrebursm Museum of History. Ten minute walk from USFSP.

4) Wiki wiki what?

As if commercial aviation isn’t vital enough to our modern lives, St. Petersburg was also the home of the tool most college students love and professors love to hate - Wikipedia. Shortly after being created by Jimmy Wales in 2001, the Fledgling encyclopedia moved to offices downtown. It was here that the encyclopedia was incorporated to the non-profit Wikimedia Foundation in 2005, seeing an increase in usage and popularity. Although the foundation moved to San Francisco in 2008, the majority of the encyclopedia servers are still housed in the Tampa Bay area, making its content subject to Florida laws.

5) Williams Park hosted presidents!

Yes! Once-prominent Williams Park was the site of many presidential rallies and visits during the second half of the 20th century. Richard Nixon spoke on behalf of presidential candidate Barry Goldwater from the park in 1964, and the 1980 election saw both Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter both nearby and at the park. Although Tampa hosted the 2012 Republican National Convention, St. Petersburg hosted the vice presidential debate in 1996. Before its demolition in 2004, the Bayfront Center hosted the 1996 debate between Al Gore and Jack Kemp.

Location: Williams Park, the 300 block of 1st Avenue N. Bayfront Center demolished in 2004 to make way for the new Dali Museum. Five to seven minute walk from USFSP.

6) There are moon rocks in the Burg.

Yes. Really. You don’t have to drive across the state to Kennedy Space Center or fly to the moon to see real pieces of lunar cheese. Two alumni of the Admiral Farragut Academy, Alan Shepard and Charlie Duke, were moonwalkers. Duke, who landed on the moon with the Apollo 16 Mission in 1972, was awarded an Ambassador of Exploration award by NASA in 2006. Since the award contains a lunar sample encased in Lucite, and because moon rocks cannot be privately owned, the award was required to be displayed to the public. Duke chose his alma mater in St. Petersburg to house his award, which is on display in the school’s main entrance.

Location: Admiral Farragut Academy, 501 Park Street N. Twenty minute drive from USFSP.

7) An express lane to dancing chickens and mermaids?

Webb’s City, once the largest drugstore in the world, employed tactics during its over 50-year lifespan to draw in locals and visitors alike. Like its equally famous sibling at Weeki Wachee, the store put on a mermaid show using both live actresses and dummy figures. Additionally, mannequins on sidewalk displays were voiced by actresses behind a double mirror, startling adults and youngsters alike; there was even a two-cent dancing ‘chicken’ that would entertain those who paid it. However, declining tourism and neighborhoods forced the “World’s Most Unusual Drugstore” to close in 2006. Since the award contains a lunar sample encased in Lucite, and because moon rocks cannot be privately owned, the award was required to be displayed to the public. Duke chose his alma mater in St. Petersburg to house his award, which is on display in the school’s main entrance.

Location: Admiral Farragut Academy, 501 Park Street N. Twenty minute drive from USFSP.

8) A memorial that benefits others.

The city is also home to another tribute to manned space exploration, albeit a darker one. Edward White was the first American to walk in space on the Gemini IV mission in 1964, and was slated to be on the inaugural flight of the Apollo spaceship in 1967. However, a routine test of the capsule on the launch pad killed White and his two fellow crewmembers on Jan. 27, 1967, when a wire shorted out and sparked. The capsule, pressurized with flammable pure oxygen, ignited and killed all three men in a matter of seconds. When White’s family moved to St. Petersburg in the mid-1970s, following his father’s retirement from the military, the city honored his son’s legacy by naming a new hospital after him, Edward White Hospital. One of White’s Apollo 1 training suits is inside the main lobby, as well as displays of the Gemini program. It serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made in the pursuit of exploration and the expansion of knowledge.

Location: Edward H. White II Memorial Hospital, 2323 9th Ave. N.

9) Fun in the Sun!

Keeping with the spirit of St. Petersburg’s nickname, "The Sunshine City," the city council and tourism board created an iconic logo for the city to be used on posters, brochures and other memorabilia touting the city’s near-constant sunshine. Known as Mr. Sun, the anthropomorphic orb with glasses has welcomed visitors since the early 1950s. He was replaced by the current Pelican gradient logo in the mid-1980s. His legacy lives on with occasional appearances around the city, including the Chamber of Commerce and a massive mural behind the Blue Lucy art gallery.

Location: Chamber of Commerce, corner of 1st Street and 2nd Avenue. Blue Lucy located at 653 Central Ave., with mural accessible from 1st Avenue N. Ten minute walks from USFSP.
Lizards and laughs at the Mahaffey

BY CAITLIN ASHWORTH  
Crow’s Nest Contributor

The Floridian reptile population set the tone for a night of humor at the Mahaffey Theater. MTV2’s Guy Code comedian Jermaine Fowler entertained more than 200 students at the Main Sail Comedy Night on Aug. 28.

The College Humor Live performer was scared by the “lizard apocalypse.” In comparison to Jermaine’s home in New York, Florida has an insane amount of lizards. But that wasn’t all Fowler had to say to the college audience. He asked, “What’s the weirdest thing your roommate does?” and poked fun at the couples in the audience. After seeing Eddie Murphy Raw as a high school senior, Fowler was inspired to become a comedian. He said becoming a comedian was “probably the best decision I ever made.”

“Lizards and laughs at the Mahaffey” by Jermaine Fowler

By Caitlin Ashworth  
Crow’s Nest Contributor

The Floridian reptile population set the tone for a night of humor at the Mahaffey Theater. MTV2’s Guy Code comedian Jermaine Fowler entertained more than 200 students at the Main Sail Comedy Night on Aug. 28.

Fowler started acting as an extra in New York. He was later bumped up to more major roles for College Humor sketches and is now working on a TruTV show, “Friends of the People.” Fowler is best known as a talking head comedian for MTV2’s Guy Code.

“This group of comedians sits down and yaps about the most random subjects, from immature stuff like pooping, to some serious stuff like breaking up to like parents’ divorce, stuff like that,” Fowler said. “People really respond to it. They really love the show, and I’m just fortunate to be on it.”

Fowler ended his act with a joke about his brother who was raised as a special needs child, only to later find out that his brother’s speech was just slurred by his enlarged tongue. But when the laughs stopped, he offered advice to aspiring comedians.

“Just don’t wait. Go on stage one day. Bomb. Honestly, bombing is the best thing that can happen to you when you first start out because it makes you funnier,” he said. “It doesn’t give you like an ego, ya know... When you have a new bit you wanna try out, do it on stage immediately.”

arts@crowsneststpete.com

An old postcard shows people enjoying the green benches in St. Petersburg.
Editorial

City: Don’t overlook us

Parking is already a problem on campus, and taking it away as we expand could only lead to more frustration.

On Tuesday, the vision plan goes before the USF Board of Trustees. The plan looks to increase enrollment from 4,700 to 10,000 students by 2024. At The Crow’s Nest, we believe there’s a lot to like in that plan.

The campus will remain small compared to other state universities such as USF Tampa, University of Florida and Florida State University. We retain our small charm and the personal attention we receive from our professors and deans. Yet, we will gain resources to make campus life more vibrant. More on-campus students mean a more-active student body, and ultimately, better campus life, which is something that has been a goal of administrators for a long time.

But we believe some logistical concerns have been overlooked by both campus administrators and the city of St. Petersburg. If the USF St. Petersburg experience is to remain peaceful, these problems must be addressed before the plan is put into motion.

On the eve of this Board of Trustees meeting, the city of St. Petersburg removed several parking spaces along 6th Avenue S, installing a wide grassy median and a bike lane as an extension of the Pinellas Trail. Last semester, lack of parking had become a growing problem on campus. Now, as we look to expand, the city takes away more parking, telling students they can find other spots downtown.

We think the Pinellas Trail expansion is a great asset to the city, but not at the expense of parking at the only public university in Pinellas County. And while the large medians provide nice landscaping, we think they are waste of space on a downtown street.

We can look to the Pinellas Trail in Clearwater for solutions. While this part of the trail is arguably not the best part of the trail, Clearwater appropriately took advantage of the space it had. On parts of Fort Harrison Avenue, the trail merges with the sidewalk. Along 6th Avenue S in St. Petersburg, we have a wide sidewalk, where the trail could go.

We understand cycling on a sidewalk is not ideal. But this is only a small part of the trail, and taking away parking spaces at a downtown university campus is not ideal either.

We urge the city: Help USFSP find more parking as it expands. Don’t take away parking, and expect students to have a positive experience as the university grows. Because attending a campus with 10,000 students and little parking will be a miserable.

USFSP also faces other problems regarding space. The flight path of Albert Whitted Airport bars the university from building up in many areas. Downtown real estate is in high demand, and an acre can cost $1 million or more, according to Paula Clair Smith, a broker associate at Merritt Realty.

These problems need to be addressed before enrollment increases. This vision plan could make USFSP and the city of St. Petersburg an even greater destination than they are now. The plan could finally allow USFSP to define itself as a university, and could attract some bright students to the St. Petersburg area.

But if USFSP is unable to purchase land, and the city of St. Petersburg is unwilling to help us find better parking, the plan could be worse than we anticipate.

Photo of the week

Pass the chips

Students packed the University Student Center and Harborwalk last week in celebration of the Week of Welcome. Casino night on Tuesday attracted both die-hard poker players and those interested in learning. Ryan Tona, AJ Hernandez and Ryan Carver focus intently on their poker game.

The Week of Welcome also featured a comedy show from MTV2 Guy Code’s Jermaine Fowler, a glow party, plenty of free food and an island party, complete with steel drums and life-size jenga sets.

Submit a picture with a caption for photo of the week to crowsneststpete.com. The best photo submission will run next week.

Throwback

Little Willie, born, or rather, rolled out, in England on Sept. 6, 1915. The prototype, well, we mean prototype, weighed approximately 14 tons. Like any newborns, it tended to get stuck. The tank crawled at two miles per hour and was vulnerable to falling into the trenches.

The tank was developed as a “land boat” to combat trench warfare. Ernest Swinton, British army colonel, and William Hankey, secretary of the Committee for Imperial Defence, advocated for the development of “an armored vehicle with conveyer-belt-like tracks over its wheels that could break through enemy lines and traverse difficult territory.”

Younger brother, “Big Willie” succeeded the elder tank, deemed battle ready in 1916, though the tank was considered hot, noisy, and unwieldy.

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Younger brother, “Big Willie” succeeded the elder tank, deemed battle ready in 1916, though the tank was considered hot, noisy, and unwieldy.
Served, then scared
By Andrew Caplan
Staff Columnist

It was just another-day-at-work except on this day. I’m standing on a stranger’s porch with a gun pointed at my face. This is my job.

It was my second-to-last stop of the night. As soon as I started knocking on this person’s door I had a feeling in my stomach that this would not be just any other service.

As a self-employed process server, I have attorneys, home-owners and companies pay me to deliver the bad news (by any means) to dead-beat dads behind on their child support, a mother behind on her mortgage, a young couple behind on their rent, a kid in his early 20s who ‘forgot’ to pay off a Best Buy credit card or a student behind on college loans; the list goes on.

After delivering eviction papers to an older man, I headed to a woman’s home for an unpaid Wal-Mart credit card.

Like usual, I step out of my car. I take a picture of the home. I see two cars in the driveway. This excites me. I have yet to see vehicles at this home on prior visits. I write down the license plate numbers and walk towards the front door. I see the television on. Someone is watching the Sci-Fi network. This disgusts me. I knock and wait as I watch an alien creature destroy his surroundings while grade-D actors scream.

Generally, after my third attempt at knocking on a door I will simply leave or ring the doorbell once more. I opted for the doorbell.

Then I hear the TV volume rise. “Oh, a jerk lives here,” I tell myself. So, I knock harder.

Keep in mind, I am looking for a woman. And most women don’t act as insensitive to a young man standing outside their home with a backwards Orioles cap on in the humid Florida weather. Nor do they watch the Sci-Fi network. If a woman was avoiding me from inside the home, she would simply ignore the knocks or sneak into the other room.

The door swings open and a bare-footed, bearded, older man quickly becomes belligerent. This man is nose-to-nose with me and I can smell the stench of alcohol on his breath. I must be cautious.

I slowly back away in hopes of avoiding more confrontation. But it’s too late.

He shows his hand in the back of his pants. “Gross! What the hell is this guy doing?”, I ask myself.

To my surprise, he pulls out a gun and points it at me. I have no idea what kind of gun it was. That was the least of my worries. I didn’t even know if it was loaded. Do I want to know?

I have to escape the situation by explaining I was looking for someone else (presumably his wife) and that if she didn’t live here, I would be on my way. To no surprise, he yells, “Well she doesn’t. So get outta here before I bash your face in with my fist.”

“Why would you punch some one if you have a gun?” I think to myself.

I slowly start walking backwards to my car and the drunken man stumbles back inside while wearing a Joe Dirt style, yellow-crusted wife beater.

Once in my car, I drive one street over and frantically search the local property appraiser’s public records. The woman I was looking for owned the home…with her husband. I call a friend to run the plates and the same man and woman’s names appear again.

I drive back to the home and I see the man standing outside staring at a tree. I call him by the name I’ve seen several times. “Yes!” he replies.

I throw the papers in his general direction and say “You’ve been served. Your wife has 20 days to respond” (again, the usual legal).

To think I made a career from watching Seth Rogan sing “Electric Avenue” on the big screen amazes some people, despite the dangers I face on occasions like this day.

And although the pay is great, a typical process server’s life is not glamorous, and it is dangerous to constantly knock on strangers’ doors in day and day out.

And although I asked myself, “Is this what I want to do for the next 20-30 years?”

Hell no! I want to be a sports writer.

Andrew Caplan, a senior majoring in Mass Communications, is the sports editor. He can be reached at andrewcaplan@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @CappyMIA.

Longing for green benches
By Amanda Starling
Staff Columnist

St. Petersburg didn’t always feel this homey. The murals that were splashed onto alley walls in the recent years and the revival of antique indications of buildings’ ages are a recent trend that has brought the Sunshine City back to life.

North St. Petersburg is a region of urban sprawl and decay, perhaps due to cheap building manufacturing. Everything feels so worn, between the recovering economy and time warp sensation. Then I started noticing a change, being shoved back and forth until a new shopping plaza is built on top, only the be knocked down five years later when shoppers are bored of the latest TJ Maxx offerings.

This up and down of construc-tion is exhausting. Imagine my joy to happen upon a decades-old bookstore, my beloved Haslam’s. There’s something refreshing in reveling in the pre-existent, a place that even Jack Kerouac haunts. My favorite taco spot, Casita Taqueria, is a renovated garage that still hosts a rolling glass door.

Then I hear the TV volume rise. “Oh, a jerk lives here,” I tell myself. So, I knock harder.

Keep in mind, I am looking for a woman. And most women don’t act as insensitive to a young man standing outside their home with a backwards Orioles cap on in the humid Florida weather. Nor do they watch the Sci-Fi network. If a woman was avoiding me from inside the home, she would simply ignore the knocks or sneak into the other room.

The door swings open and a bare-footed, bearded, older man quickly becomes belligerent. This man is nose-to-nose with me and I can smell the stench of alcohol on his breath. I must be cautious.

I slowly back away in hopes of avoiding more confrontation. But it’s too late.

He shows his hand in the back of his pants. “Gross! What the hell is this guy doing?”, I ask myself.

To my surprise, he pulls out a gun and points it at me. I have no idea what kind of gun it was. That was the least of my worries. I didn’t even know if it was loaded. Do I want to know?

I have to escape the situation by explaining I was looking for someone else (presumably his wife) and that if she didn’t live here, I would be on my way. To no surprise, he yells, “Well she doesn’t. So get outta here before I bash your face in with my fist.”

“Why would you punch some one if you have a gun?” I think to myself.

I slowly start walking backwards to my car and the drunken man stumbles back inside while wearing a Joe Dirt style, yellow-crusted wife beater.

Once in my car, I drive one street over and frantically search the local property appraiser’s public records. The woman I was looking for owned the home…with her husband. I call a friend to run the plates and the same man and woman’s names appear again.

I drive back to the home and I see the man standing outside staring at a tree. I call him by the name I’ve seen several times. “Yes!” he replies.

I throw the papers in his general direction and say “You’ve been served. Your wife has 20 days to respond” (again, the usual legal).

To think I made a career from watching Seth Rogan sing “Electric Avenue” on the big screen amazes some people, despite the dangers I face on occasions like this day.

And although the pay is great, a typical process server’s life is not glamorous, and it is dangerous to constantly knock on strangers’ doors in day and day out.

And although I asked myself, “Is this what I want to do for the next 20-30 years?”

Hell no! I want to be a sports writer.

Andrew Caplan, a senior majoring in Mass Communications, is the sports editor. He can be reached at andrewcaplan@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @CappyMIA.

Take athlete domestic violence seriously
By Mark Wolfenbarger
Staff Columnist

Professional football today is a different sport than it was a few short years ago. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell announced that the league is strengthening its personal-conduct policy. Active immediately, any NFL player who uses physical force to commit an act of assault, battery, domestic violence or sexual assault will receive an unpaid six-game suspension on first offense. Second offenders will be banished from the league for at least one year.

The stricter punishment is no doubt a response to the backlash fired at Goodell after his decision in July to levy a pathetically weak two-game suspension against Ray Rice, the Baltimore Ravens star running back who, in February, was accused of knocking his then-fiancée (now-wife) and dragging her fiancée-now-wife from a hotel elevator.

Let’s face it: If the backlash didn’t occur, the policy wouldn’t have changed. The NFL is both a sport and an entertainment business. Athletes are celebrities. If the NFL doesn’t showcase its top stars, the league will suffer. That is why league officials made their decision.

The fact that the penalty for sub- stance abuse is stronger than — and now about equal to — the pen- alty for domestic assault is proof of the backwardness of professional sports. Leagues test players’ urine for the sanctity of the game, but for the image of the league itself. If a guy somehow manages to fail a urine test for illegal substances, the league suspends him and appears morally upright. Violence is another issue.

The NFL is a league where young athletes receive two-game suspensions for on-field hits. It’s ironic that, in a violent sport, the more heav- ily disapproved violence committed by NFL players generally takes place on the field where the sport is played. Players like James Harrison and Brandon Meriweather have become household names virtu- ally because of the suspensions and fines they have incurred for illegal hits. Last time anyone checked, hitting your fiancée for no apparent reason is illegal. But it didn’t take place on the field, so it’s really not a black eye to the NFL. Or so Goodell thought.

The difference this time is that a lot of people voiced their disappro- val, including women’s rights advocates and members of con- gress. It seems that league officials hoped that incidents like this would get unnoticed or cause little commotion because they aren’t happen- ing in a stadium in front of millions of people. After all, sports fans have short memories.

Accused of rape? No problem — win a Super Bowl. Run a dog-fight- ing ring? Make some highlight- worthy plays and all is forgiven. The pedestal we as sports fans place elite athletes on is absurd. We care too much about entertainment and too little about character. These guys are often considered role models. Why? Because they have rocket arms, run fast and jump high?

We excuse players’ inexcusable behavior because they wow us with gifts we don’t possess. For many of them, all this does is inflate their egos and elevate their demigod-like status. They believe their legal as well as their physical limits extend beyond ours. And when we don’t speak up, we reinforce that belief.

Sure, Rice eventually apologized a few months after the incident and Goodell enforced stricter punish- ment a few months after that. But if you believe either of those actions were sincere, I have a bridge to sell you.

Mark Wolfenbarger, a senior majoring in Mass Communications, is the news editor. He can be reached at wolfenbar@gulf.ccsu.edu or on Twitter @Steel_Canvas.
USFSP Player Evaluations

If you are interested in joining the USFSP baseball club, evaluations will be held Sept. 4 from 7-10 p.m. at Lake Vista Park, and on Sept. 6 from noon-3 p.m. at Higgins Field. A registration form must be filled out prior to attending. The form can be found on the “USFSP Baseball Team” Facebook page.

Meet Tampa Bay Buccaneer Jonathan Casillas

Meet Tampa Bay Buccaneer Jonathan Casillas at the Bus on Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. for a fan autograph.

Bucs Schedule 2014-2015

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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NCAA Rushing Leaders

*As of Sunday 8 a.m. according to NCAA.com

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## Crowd power boosts Bulls

**By Andrew Caplan**

*Staff Reporter*

As smoke filled the tunnel, the Bulls ran onto the field to start their 2014 season with a bang. Although the canons were not firing at Raymond James Stadium, a star shot out of nowhere in his first career college game.

In their 36-31 victory over the Western Carolina Catamounts, true-freshman Marlon Mack scored four touchdowns on opening night, tied the USF school record and broke the conference record with 275 rushing yards. Mack scored on runs of 60, 62, 56, and 2 yards.

The freshman gave the Bulls a running attack they have not had in a while.

That was very impressive, it put a smile on my face," USF Head Coach Willie Taggart said in a post-game press conference. "I'd like to see that more often around here. It was good. When they came here, I told all the backs, ‘it’s been a long time since USF has a 1,000 yard rusher,’ and we’d like to get back to that. It was a good start."

The 6,392 students in attendance provided an energy for the home team throughout the game. The roars from the crowd grew louder throughout the stadium.

The Bulls football team get pumped up before the game.

“First of all, our student section today was awesome,” USF quarterback Mike White said. “I love the support from them and when you get big runs like that, it gets them going and when you have that student section going and rocking in Ray Jay, it’s one tough environment for the other team.”

However, the loudest vocal performance from the crowd came when a referee accidentally said “UCF” instead of USF when announcing a penalty. And just as quickly as the boos poured in, chants of “USF, USF, USF!” echoed throughout the stadium.

“That was awesome!” Taggart said, referring to the student section. “Big time! That was big time from the start to the finish. To see that, I’m really grateful for them, happy for them. That is the best student section in the country. Big time.”

The one win is already half the number of wins the Bulls had in 2013 and it was the first come-from-behind victory while under Coach Taggart.

The team’s next test will come when the Bulls host the Maryland Terrapins Sept. 6 at 3:30 p.m.

Taggart said he expects a game plan similar to the Cattacouts’ from the Terps and he hopes the team can feed off the student crowd for games to come.

“It’s going to be a challenge for some of our guys, but it’s a challenge we look forward to,” Taggart said. “We’re going to go prepare, and be excited and ready to go and hopefully have that student section like it was today! And then, hopefully, have some more people come in here to believe. That’d be awesome wouldn’t it?”

Last season, Taggart asked Bulls fans to hop on “the bus”. As he left his post-game conference, Taggart joked with the media that he upgraded to a “Mack Bus”.

Bucs line ready for win

**By Andrew Caplan**

*Staff Reporter*

Just one season removed from the “Fire Schiano” campaign, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers have evolved into a different team over night.

During this past offseason, the team hired Head Coach Lovie Smith, General Manager Jason Licht and picked up some big-name players to assist Smith in finding players to evolve into a different team over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers have

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The Bucs continued to bring in more well-known names after player transactions. Licht has the power to fire Smith if he chooses.

Smith is 84-66 all time as a head coach. While coaching for the Chicago Bears, he won three division titles and went to the Super Bowl. He coincidently lost to Tony Dungy’s Colts. When Dungy coached the Bucs from 1996-2000, Smith was the linebacker coach.

Also from the Bears comes former backup quarterback Josh McCown. McCown played behind Jay Cutler for three seasons while in Chicago and picked up a lot of playing time during Cutler’s injuries. Smith instantly named McCown the starting QB after he had signed with the team, leaving Mike Glennon on the bench.

The Bucs continued to bring in more well-known names after Smith and McCown.

The organization selected Mike Evans from Texas A&M with the seventh overall pick during the NFL draft. The wide receiver scored 12 touchdowns and had 1,394 receiving yards as a junior before declaring for the draft. Evans was named to the 2013 AP All-American Team, First Team. Evans will start on the opposite side of the ball with WR Vincent Jackson.

With the second team pick, tight end Austin Seferian-Jenkins was selected. Seferian-Jenkins had 13 touchdowns and 1,398 receiving yards in his final year with Washington. He has the size of a Jimmy Graham or a Rob Gronkowski and can grab a pass in tight coverage. Along with Jackson and Evans, Seferian-Jenkins is 6-foot-5.

To address other needs, the team traded their other tight end Tim Wright for guard Logan Mankins to the Patriots. Mankins is a six-time pro bowler and appeared in two Super Bowls while protecting Tom Brady. Mankins will protect McCown as he searches for his number one back Mike White said. “I love the support from them and when you get big runs like that, it gets them going and when you have that student section going and rocking in Ray Jay, it’s one tough environment for the other team.”

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Bucks fans hopeful of a division championship will be able to see if all the change worked on Sept. 7 when the Bucs host the Carolina Panthers for the season opener.

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