9-8-2014

Crow's Nest : 2014 : 09 : 08

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

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Graduation venue still a sore subject  

**By Mark Wolfenbarger, Staff Reporter**

Students weren’t happy with the size of the graduation commencement ceremony before the university decided to expand. With the approval of the strategic plan on Thursday, which will increase enrollment from 4,700 to 10,000 over the next 10 years, students’ concerns are likely to grow.

Student complaints came to a head months ago when Lorenza Navarro, a USF St. Petersburg graduate student, started a petition to get the May 4 commencement ceremony moved from its current location at the 2,031-seat Mahaffey Theater to a larger venue.

“USF St. Petersburg’s commencement ceremony is held at the Mahaffey Theater every semester,” Navarro said in the petition. “Each semester, students are given five tickets for family and friends to attend this ceremony. These students have worked tirelessly to achieve this well-deserved honor and I believe it should be in a large venue that can accommodate all of them.”

Sept. 4, the largest single donation in the university’s history was given by 78-year-old entrepreneur, Kate Tiedemann. With approval from the Board of Trustees, the college’s name was officially changed to the Kate Tiedemann College of Business. Only a handful of business schools across the U.S. are named for women. This donation could help the university establish its own identity, but could also attract more students to the College of Business.

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Kate Tiedemann, founder of Katena Products, donated $10 million to the College of Business. Her donation is the single largest contribution in the university system history.

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College of Business receives record gift  

**Donor brings funds for academic and identity growth of College of Business**

**By Emily Wehunt, Staff Reporter**

The College of Business has a new name and a record $10 million dollar donation.

At the conclusion of USF’s Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, Sept. 4, the largest single donation in the university’s history was given by 78-year-old entrepreneur, Kate Tiedemann. With approval from the Board of Trustees, the college’s name was officially changed to the Kate Tiedemann College of Business. Only a handful of business schools in the U.S. are named for women. This donation could help the university establish its own identity, but could also attract more students to the College of Business.

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Continued on p. 2

Strategic plan approved  

**By Amanda Starling, Staff Reporter**

In an unanimous vote, the Board of Trustees secured an increase in student enrollment to 10,000 students by 2024.

The board met Sept. 4 to approve the plan. Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska presented a summary of goals outlined by USFSP. Over seven months, launched in Spring 2014, 600 participants from various departments within the satellite university contributed to eight forums held on campus. Up to 34 unique strategies were developed to ensure growth of Pinellas county’s only residential university hosting public research.

“We are committed to becoming an anchor to this city and surrounding businesses,” Wisniewska said in a final presentation. Forums gathered students, faculty, administrators and campus employees to discuss the identity of USFSP.

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CAMPUS EATS  

**Meal plan picks for the starving student.**

p. 4

The Mahaffey Theatre is the current venue for the USF St. Petersburg graduation each fall and spring. Students hope to experience a larger venue as the student body population continues to grow.
$10 million given by local entrepreneur

Kate Tiedemann poses for a group photograph with USFSP students. The College of Business is renamed the Kate Tiedemann College of Business, effective immediately after the Board of Trustees meeting on Sept. 4.

Campus set for expansion

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USFSP now admits students with a 3.85 GPA or higher, with 474 new freshmen admitted for summer and fall sessions in 2014. USFSP now admits students with a 3.85 GPA or higher, with 474 new freshmen admitted for summer and fall sessions in 2014.

Plants are still in place to transform the Piano Man building, 140 7th Ave. S into the new home of the College of Business. The total estimated cost of this project is $30 million and is estimated to be completed by Fall 2016.

Information was gathered from usfsp.edu and the Tampa Bay Times.

News Briefs

Monday, Sept. 8

USFSP celebrates the release of "Violence, Trauma, and Virtus in Shakespeare's Roman Poems and Plays: Transforming Ovid" by Professor Lisa S. Starks-Estes, with a launch party on Wednesday, September 10, 4:30-6 p.m. at Harbor Hall, University of South Florida St. Petersburg. The celebration, free and open to the public, will include a short performance, book talk and refreshments.

Tuesday, Sept. 9

Elections are coming up, so it’s time to get informed. Bill Young, candidate for the District 68 seat in the Florida House of Representatives, joins the College Republicans from 7-8 p.m. in the University Student Center, Room 258. All are welcome regardless of political preferences.

Wednesday, Sept. 10

Spent all of your money on Bulls gear already? Get a job! The Career Center hosts a Part-Time Job & Internship Fair in the Student Life Center, featuring area employers and recruiters are lined up to offer you job opportunities. Alumni and current students are welcome to visit the Career Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., but don’t forget those snazzy slacks-- the dress code is business casual.

Thursday, Sept. 11

Test out your green thumb with the Garden Club for the first planting work day. Starting at 3:30 p.m., gardeners can tend the soil and add fresh seeds while learning more about the club. Gloves and water will be provided.

Saturday, Sept. 13

Horns up and step up to cheer on the Bulls as they take on the N.C. State at home. Kick-off is at 3:30 p.m.

Senator appointed to impeachment committee

Senator Angela Wilson was appointed to fill Tzigauna Kubiszak’s spot on the senate impeachment committee. A decision on impeachment has yet to be reached.

Volleyball courts opening

Bump it over to the newly installed volleyball courts near the University Student Center starting on Sept. 18. Campus organizations can reserve the courts starting on Sept. 22 through Campus Recreation.

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Continued from p.1

Tiedemann and Wisniewska, who were both immigrants, instantly bonded over their similar upbringings. In 1955, at 18 years old, Tiedemann immigrated to New York from Hamburg, Germany with $30 in her pocket and little education. Tiedemann never went to school or college. All of her experience and further education came from on-the-job training.

She created her first business in 1975, Katena Products. The company designs and sells instruments to ophthalmic surgeons all over the world, and was sold to Cortec Group in 2009.

Tiedemann said being able to give back is a wonderful feeling. She wants to create an opportunity for the students, one that she never had.

"I hope that they will have fun learning at this college, and will go forward into the world and create their own things like I did," Tiedemann said. "It will hopefully be easier than the way I had to do it."

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"This is not a branch campus, but a place of authority in the community," he said.

The approval of the strategic plan coincides with the Waterfront Master Plan, a discussion that has entailed the expansion of downtown entities, including neighbor All Children’s Hospital and Bayfront Health St. Petersburg. Mayor Rick Kriseman shared his interest in the growth of competing universities in St. Petersburg, including USFSP and Eckerd College.

"This competitive spirit is good as a whole," Kriseman said. "It serves as an anchor for coming innovation."
One way in for residents

BY BRYANA PERKINS
Crow’s Nest Contributor

From now on, the double doors in the front entrance and the side stairwells of Resident Hall One will be used as emergency exits.

The building’s increased issues with uninvited guests initiated the question of safety.

“This change, said to be permanent for the foreseeable future, is now being enforced with the installation of alarms, which will activate whenever the front entrance and stairwell doors are open.

Many students said that they weren’t told about the change, including those who left for the summer.

“I was informed only because I was here during the summer,” said Rose Joseph, a sixth-floor resident. “I had noticed that they locked it off, [so] I asked one of the administrators. He said that they would not be opening them back up during the fall.”

But USFSP Assistant Director of Housing Heather Klisanin said that students were informed by email at the end of the spring semester and again at the beginning of the summer semester.

“We did try to make sure that students were aware of what was happening as we were moving forward. But this is just one piece of a bigger campus project,” Klisanin said. “It’s all about campus initiatives. I’ve had less concerns from people about people in the building that don’t belong here.”

Parking garage cameras and more lighting in the RHO courtyard are other possibilities.

The ongoing project to ensure campus safety -- a response to the agenda set by the federal government for all universities -- was developed by a campus committee comprising USFSP campus police and the dean of students.

Although safety cannot be guaranteed, Klisanin wants students to understand the reason for the changes.

“It’s not here to cause any problems or to make things harder for anyone,” Klisanin said. “We’re definitely here to try and make sure everyone has a good experience, but I have to think bigger picture and safety for everyone.”

Students who live elsewhere probably won’t notice the change, but RHO residents have. Justin Matava, a fourth-floor resident, thinks it’s a hassle.

“I don’t feel like it made a difference,” he said. “Not for security reasons. I don’t feel any more secure. I just don’t like walking around.”

Matthew Galiano, a sixth-floor resident, shares Matava’s disapproval.

“It makes me feel more restricted because there is only one way to go out and it’s crowded; the elevators are more crowded,” Galiano said.

“Plus everyone now knows that’s the way to get in.”

“I can see the level of safety that it’s increased, but ultimately the cost to benefit is not equally balanced,” said Stuart Penoff, a seventh-floor resident. “We’re giving up more convenience than we’re getting in safety.”

There are some, however, who are grateful for the changes.

“It makes you feel a little bit safer that at least they’re thinking about the safety and they’re trying pretty hard to make things different, so that things can be safer,” said Allison Vilardi, a fifth-floor resident.

Nora Khatcharian, Vilardi’s roommate, agrees.

“What price do we have to pay for our security?” Khatcharian said.

“We have to walk. Is it convenience or is it security that’s more important to the student body?”

No solutions yet for ceremony

Continued from p.1

milestone, yet they are forced to limit who may experience it with them.

Navarro’s petition has reached 250 signatures.

Han Reichgelt, USFSP’s regional vice chancellor of academic affairs, understands students’ frustration and the importance of a graduation ceremony.

“All I’ve done in academic administration is driven by the belief that universities don’t exist to have students,” Reichgelt said, “they exist to have graduates.”

One cause of USFSP’s graduation-site dilemma is the rate at which students graduate from the school.

“We’ve seen student numbers drop a little bit at USF St. Pete this year,” Reichgelt said. “The main reason for that is that we’re pushing them out with degrees and that we’re not quite filling the pipeline with as many students as we graduate. That’s a good problem to have.”

The biggest challenge the university faces is finding a new location that accommodates the desired number of attendees while giving them a chance to see the campus.

Reichgelt said that it’s too hot for an outdoor ceremony. Tropicana Field has been suggested by many students. While it remains an option, it is too far for some school officials.

“The closer you can get to campus, the nicer it is because parents then get the chance to see the campus a little bit,” Reichgelt said.

Molly Diangikes, a senior psychology major at USFSP, said that while she doesn’t have a problem with the five-ticket rule, she believes a larger commencement site will be needed once the university’s expansion begins.

“If we’re already struggling with having a smaller commencement… we’re gonna need a bigger space,” Diangikes said.

To remedy the five-ticket limit, some students have used an online ticket-exchange, which Reichgelt jokingly compared to a “black market.”

While he doesn’t have an answer to the problem, Reichgelt emphasizes with students who want more than five tickets.

“I think about my own graduation,” Reichgelt said. “I was the first from my family to get a college degree... it’s very important to families and friends.”

Han Reichgelt is the regional vice chancellor of academic affairs.
By Jennifer Nesslar

Staff Reporter

So you live on campus, and you dropped a thousand-plus dollars on that meal plan. Maybe you love it—or, you hate it. Either way, you have to eat it, or you’ve just thrown away all that money. So we’re here to help. Here are ten must-eats from on-campus dining.

The Coral Cafe:

1) The Baja Turkey Flatbread:

Nearly all the sandwiches sold this year at the Coral Cafe are flatbreads, and that’s no doubt due to the success of last year’s baja turkey flatbread. The other flatbreads are appetizing, but the baja turkey is our favorite. Hands down. It’s turkey, lettuce, tomato and onion on a pressed flatbread sandwich. But the best part is the pesto sauce spread on the flatbread. You can’t eat on campus without trying this.

$5.29

2) The Peanut Butter Dream Smoothie:

The Coral Cafe knows how to do smoothies right. You can’t go wrong with any of them, but when you want to indulge, you must try the peanut butter dream. The smoothie is a blend of bananas, ice cream, yogurt, peanut butter, chocolate syrup and protein. Sound heavenly? It tastes even more so. Just don’t make a habit. It’s high in calories, so unless you’re pumping iron like crazy, a smoothie a night may not keep off the freshman 15.

$5.79

The Reef

Entrees:

The options offered at the entree bar change every day, but here are some of the best ones we’ve seen: Entree combos are $7.29, but side portion of the entrees cost $1.39.

3) Four Cheese Creamy Macaroni and Cheese:

Cheddar, Monterey Jack, Swiss, Mozarella. All in one bowl. If you’re a mac ‘n’ cheese fanatic, you go to the right school.

$7.49

4) Monte Cristo:

If your mother never made you a monte cristo when you were growing up, we pity you. But not too much. The Reef also makes a mean Monte Cristo. If you didn’t know you were eating at the Reef, you might have thought your mother made it. Smoked ham, turkey and Swiss cheese nestled between two pieces of French toast, complete with powdered sugar. We suggest you search the Reef for some jelly to dip it in.

$5.79

9) Peach Cobbler Pizza:

There’s always the standard option. But how about a special?

$4.79

10) Whatever you can imagine:

When nothing else looks good, the sandwich bar is always faithful to create you a meal to enjoy.

Grill:

The Grill sometimes offer specials, but here are two tried-and-true options. If you’re feeling particularly indulgent, get’em with fries:

6) Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla:

Some days you just have to go for the quesadilla. Substitute veggies for the chicken if meat isn’t your thing. $4.79

7) Hamburger:

C’mon, what’s better than a hamburger? Yeah, we thought you wouldn’t have an answer. $3.99

Pizza Bar:

There’s always the standard options. But how about a special?

8) Waffles:

You get to make it as you want it. Every week, there’s a new flavor of batter. Mix whatever you want into it–chocolate chips, fruit, etc., and create yourself a masterpiece.

By Emily Wehunt

Staff Reporter

This week, we mourn the loss of a legend. While millennials may only know her as a snarky, silicon-clad red carpet commentator, Joan Rivers was, in fact, a beloved pioneer for women in comedy. Rivers rose to fame in 1965 as a commentator on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson and has remained in the limelight ever since. She was notorious for her quick wit and blunt sense of humor. Rather than mourn this beloved pioneer for women in comedy, we will fondly remember her with a few classic Joan-isms that she left us with.

“I wish I had a twin, so I could know what I’d look like without plastic surgery.”

“I succeeded by saying what everyone else is thinking.”

“People say that money is not the key to happiness, but I always figured if you have enough money, you can have a key made.”

“You know you’ve reached middle age when you’re cautioned to slow down by your doctor, instead of by the police.”

“I am definitely going to watch the Emmys this year! My makeup team is nominated for Best Special Effects.”

“She doesn’t understand the concept of Roman numerals; she thought we just fought in World War Eleven.”

“I’ve had so much plastic surgery, when I die, they will donate my body to Tupperware.”

“My love life is like a piece of Swiss cheese; most of it’s missing, and what’s there stinks.”

“At my funeral, I want Meryl Streep crying in five different accents.”

Information was gathered from time.com and people.com

Bus fare cuts costs home

By Emily Tinti

Staff Reporter

Finding reliable transportation to return home for holidays and special occasions can be challenging for students who don’t own a car.

The latest travel option students have is Megabus, a service that departs from the Marion Transit Center, about 25 minutes from downtown Tampa.

Megabus is a “safe, convenient, low cost, daily express bus service” that has served more than 35 million people in the United States and Canada, according to the Megabus official website. This double-decker bus offers affordable prices to any body visiting Fort Lauderdale, Miami and Orlando from Tampa. It has restrooms, reclining seats, power outlets, free Wi-Fi and allows passengers to eat and drink onboard.

Fares start at just $1 and steadily increase in price as the departure date nears. A ride to Orlando booked a week in advance would likely cost $5 to $10. The earlier the booking, the cheaper the ticket.

Megabus’ prices are cheaper than a flight, which can cost about $281 round-trip according to Expedia. The average price to fly from Tampa International Airport to Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport is $85. Megabus leaves from both TIA and the Marion Transit Center. At TIA, prices vary drastically depending on the date, time and airline. Take Interstate 275 N to the Marion Transit Center.

For each reserved seat, two pieces of luggage are permitted -- one to rest in the lap of the passenger, and another to remain in storage overhead. If more luggage is necessary, an additional ticket may be purchased to ensure space. This option is still cheaper than purchasing an extra carry-on item at the airport, which can cost $20 or more according to weight.

Information gathered from Google.com/flights and Google Maps.
Movie Review: The Expendables 3

By Jeffrey Zanker
Crow’s Nest Contributor
Action movies never have convincing plots, but that doesn’t matter much. The action in The Expendables 3 is enjoyable, but it rambles on as if director Patrick Hughes is turning an XBOX set on and off.

The Expendables 3 brings moviegoers back to the old school ‘80s action film genre. It’s refreshing to see old-fashioned action with the blockbuster season coming to a close. This third installment of The Expendables trilogy promises to give the audience a good time and it delivers.

Like the previous two, The Expendables 3 centers on a team of mercenaries headed by Sylvester Stallone, along with legendary action stars Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bruce Willis, Chuck Norris, Jet Li, Dolph Lundgren, Randy Couture, Terry Crews and Jason Statham.

It’s the typical action movie plot: tough guys fighting an evil terrorist group in a fictional country. It’s sometimes nauseating to see aging stars carrying on their tradition as it were fresh, but Stallone is a “never-say-die” act.

The movie opens with Stallone’s group saving new recruit Wesley Snipes from prison. Their next mission is a failure with one member down. Stallone ditches the team to lead a new team for revenge. He recruits a younger group of mercenaries for a mission involving an old-time nemesis, played with angry flair by Mel Gibson (an apt choice given his recent career).

The villain kidnaps the younger team, so it’s up to Stallone and his old gang to save the day with their old-school weapons and gung-ho bravado.

As usual, aging stars Kelsey Grammer, Harrison Ford, Antonio Banderas, and Snipes provide the fun while the younger guest stars such Kellan Lutz and Ronda Rousey, UFC Women’s Bantamweight champion, provide an old to new contrast. Of the 17 star-studded cast members, Banderas comes off as the most entertaining as a motor-mouth killer.

What matters is that the strong camaraderie of these old pros gives the movie a tongue-in-cheek approach that plays on our knowledge, and a love/hate feeling for the actors and action films they starred in at their prime. There’s immediate joy in their buddy-buddy conservations and winking at the audience with inside jokes.

The Expendables 3 is a tribute to actors built to survive demolitions, explosions and hailing gunfire. Their fellow feelings may prove tiresome with a fourth installment on the way, but their indestructible stature remains effective. For fans of these stars or movie goers interested non-hip, rowdy fun, this movie provides all the fun the remaining summer has.

Shakespeare shapes new author

By Emily Tinti
Staff Reporter
For eight years, Dr. Lisa Starks-Estes has committed to the development of her first book, Violence, Trauma, and Virtus in Shakespeare’s Roman Poems and Plays: Transforming Ovid.

Starks-Estes is an associate professor of English and the director of the MLA in Liberal Studies Program at USF St. Petersburg.

The book focuses on the Roman poet Publius Ovidius Naso’s tale Philomela within Shakespeare’s play Troilus and Cressida. It is one of a dozen of relevant myths. Upon completing her dissertation, Starks-Estes explored film theory, concentrating on gender and subjectivity, where she unearthed a new outlook.

“I discovered that early modern [or Renaissance] writers were profoundly influenced by the ancient Roman writer Ovid—his myths and his emphasis on the artist as one who creatively transforms stories of the past,” Starks-Estes said. “I found that in his poems and plays—and especially those dealing with Roman subjects—Shakespeare truly employs Ovid in every possible way to explore issues of violence, sexuality and trauma.”

As an editor, co-editor and author of published articles, Starks-Estes had always envisioned herself with a book title of her own. Over the years, fascinating connections arose between the fields she studied.

Starks-Estes acknowledges the significance of examining Shakespeare and other Renaissance literature with a keen awareness of historical contexts, and not simply in terms of major themes and writing approaches.

“I do hope that the book enables readers, teachers and students to see the importance of Ovidian mythology in Shakespeare and Renaissance literature,” Starks-Estes said. “I really felt that, once I understood this rich context, I got to touch the impulse that energized these writers, Christopher Marlowe and Shakespeare especially.”

For two summers, Starks-Estes offered her unique perspective and work at the Folger Mini-Institute, a workshop intended to aid high school teachers in teaching Shakespeare. She hopes that these methods will benefit instructors.

“I got a great response from those instructors, particularly on my work dealing with how Shakespeare uses mythology to explore lovesickness in his plays,” Starks-Estes said. “The teachers thought that students would be very engaged in this topic.”

USFSP colleagues will honor Dr. Lisa Starks-Estes, known for her work as an associate professor English and director of the MLA in Liberal Studies at USF St. Petersburg. Her latest work focused on Shakespeare and Ovidian themes.
Journalist inspires in death

Years before the world knew of the existence of the violent terrorist group called the Islamic State, Steven Sotloff was a student journalist.

Before Sotloff covered conflict in Egypt and Syria for Time magazine, the Christian Science Monitor and Foreign Policy, he was a senior staff writer at University of Central Florida’s Central Florida Future.

He grew up in Florida and enjoyed rooting on the Miami Heat and the Miami Dolphins.

But his passion for the reporting on the Middle East led him into risks—ultimately his kidnapping in 2013. On Tuesday, ISIS released a video beheading Sotloff in revenge for the U.S. airstrikes on Iraq.

This past week, the news has been filled with headlines about Sotloff. But we can’t help but admire Sotloff for his sacrifice for the field of journalism.

Sotloff chose to report on conflict in the Middle East, a difficult year. But he began like any one of us at The Crow’s Nest: writing for his school newspaper.

In a few years, our staff could be scattered across the globe. Some of us could be reporting on politics in Washington. Another could be covering sports in the Tampa Bay market.

But maybe one of us will end up in Syria.

This is not to paint a bleak picture of the field of journalism. Rather, we are commending Sotloff’s passion. And charging our friends in journalism and in other fields at USF St. Petersburg: Follow your passion.

Even if it costs your life.

Sotloff sacrificed much. He walked away from the safety and comforts Florida provided. He left his family, and traveled to some of the most dangerous political climates a journalist could go.

He died at the hands of terrorists—certainly not a glamorous way to die. And this was after being held captive since 2013.

At The Crow’s Nest, we want to take this space to thank Sotloff for his sacrifice, and offer our prayers and support for Sotloff’s family.

And we want to take this time to encourage to tell our readers again: Follow your passion. Don’t just limit your passion to your career. If you don’t have a driving force in life, go find it. And follow that passion wholeheartedly.

You can live life comfortably, but when the end of your life comes, what will you say for yourself? We’d rather die at the hands of our enemies and know we did something rather than die in our sleep in a mansion and know we did nothing of value.

So follow the example of Steven Sotloff and follow your passion.
Nude: exploring new territory

BY CANDICE RESHEF
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

Local lore tells of a nude beach at the northern-most tip of Fort Desoto Beach. When I moved here seven years ago, my new friends described a place that sounded like paradise. A recent refugee of the Bible Belt, a place where one could bask openly in God’s glorious light with nothing to cover one’s perfect created-in-His-image body surrounded downright sinful. So I had to try it.

I had never been “skinny-dipping” before. I had been a fat kid, uncomfortable in my own skin, and certainly not comfortable exposing much between my neck and my ankles. But in high school I chose to be healthy, and by my freshman year of college, at 5’8, I was a respectable size 6. I still felt like a fat kid, but since I was new in town, I thought maybe I could fake it long enough to taste the forbidden fruit of daytime, public, full-frontal nudity.

My first taste was gritty. At the most northern tip of North Beach, so far north that I had to wade around a stand of mangroves to reach the infamous strip of white sand, I stumbled upon a sign placed by the city stating that public nudity is against the law. Underneath the sign a large, sweaty, mound of pink flesh accumulated sun damage and sweat. He wore only a ball cap, sunglasses, and a tube sock. I got the hell out of there, and I haven’t been back.

But two weeks ago, while exploring the Canaveral National Seashore, I stumbled upon Paradise Lost. Spanish for “beautiful beach”, Playalinda is 24 miles of undeveloped, public beach—the longest stretch on the east coast of Florida. After paying only $5, I made my exodus, once again, to the most northern area, the infamous parking lot No. 13.

Crossing the boardwalk felt like walking onto another planet. Dozens of bodies scattered over the clear white sand, and even though it was the day they were born. Groups of healthy young adults frolicked in glassy six-foot waves, while middle-aged couples strolled the shoreline, hand-in-hand, wearing only hats and smiles. One lady, crocheted on her knee, next to a sleeping man, lazily constructed a sandcastle.

The myriad of bodies, a well-balanced cross-section of humans, seemed more comfortable than most beach-goers. Still, they were more relaxed than my upbringing would allow me to be, and I regressed to the self-conscious fat kid I had almost forgotten. Unwilling to disrobe in front of all of the people who didn’t notice me anyway, I walked farther north and tried not to make eye-contact, pretending instead to be more interested in sandpipers and surf.

Before long the crowd thinned out, until I found myself, in every sense of the phrase, in what must have been Adam and Eve’s vacation timeshare. With no human flesh visible in any direction but down, I applied generous sunscreen and spent the next few hours playing like a child in the waves. I was One with the Universe, an intimate part of God’s perfect creation, a God who I hadn’t believed in since the age of reason, and who still loves me enough to bring me to this place. Filled with peace and contentment, I stuck my nose in a book, then drifted into a nap.

I awoke to a hostile voice.

“Do you have a back-country permit,” she repeated, with the same flat tone.

“What’s that?”

“Do you have a back-country permit,” once again, louder. In the next few hours it was made clear to me that, while trying to avoid eye contact during my northbound pilgrimage, I had missed the sign which read “PERMIT REQUIRED BEYOND THIS POINT.” I was instructed to begin a walk of shame, in front of the officer, the several miles back to the parking area, and to my car. After I stepped back into my sundress and was issued a warning, here’s what I learned:

A back-country permit only costs an additional $4 per person, and can be purchased at the entrance of the park between 6 a.m. and 1 p.m. The back-country permit gives its holder access, for the day, to the 12 miles of natural beach beyond the sign and away from the crowd. Only 25 permits are issued daily, and they usually sell out before noon.

It is against the law to be naked in public in all of Florida, even on this federal beach, but they choose not to enforce it.

Extra sunscreen should be applied where the sun doesn’t usually shine.

The next day, I bought more sunscreen and a back-country permit, then let the waves wash away all shame.

Amanda Starling, a senior majoring in mass communications, is the managing editor. She can be reached at astarling@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @starlingsja.

Land of the Ebola-free

BY AMANDA STARLING
STAFF COLUMNIST

Ebola has infected and killed thousands long before the 2014 outbreak. About 431 people died in the first record outbreak in 1976. More than 30 years and 3,091 deaths later, a vaccine is now in the development stages.

African nations including Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, and more have been infected over the past nine months. But who gets the first cure? The Americans, of course. It makes sense for American physicians to first test their potential vaccines on American patients.

It prevents international liability and conflict between the United States and these nations. Diplomacy is everything in a region plagued by war, underdevelopment, and conflict between the United States and these nations. Diplomacy and conflict undermined what would have been efforts to address Ebola.

The victims, aside from the citizens of the African nations, are typically world travelers. As a result, a handful of members of the international community. The United States became involved when their own two citizens contracted Ebola and flew them back home to receive a potential vaccine.

It’s a shame that when it comes to human life, little matters more than the potential gains for a nation. We go to war for oil, not human life. We create vaccines, but take our time unless our own people are in jeopardy.

But two weeks ago, while exploring the Canaveral National Seashore, I stumbled upon a sign placed by the city stating that public nudity is against the law. Underneath the sign a large, sweaty, mound of pink flesh accumulated sun damage and sweat. He wore only a ball cap, sunglasses, and a tube sock. I got the hell out of there, and I haven’t been back.

But two weeks ago, while exploring the Canaveral National Seashore, I stumbled upon Paradise Lost. Spanish for “beautiful beach”, Playalinda is 24 miles of undeveloped, public beach—the longest stretch on the east coast of Florida. After paying only $5, I made my exodus, once again, to the most northern area, the infamous parking lot No. 13.

Crossing the boardwalk felt like walking onto another planet. Dozens of bodies scattered over the clear white sand, and even though it was the day they were born. Groups of healthy young adults frolicked in glassy six-foot waves, while middle-aged couples strolled the shoreline, hand-in-hand, wearing only hats and smiles. One lady, crocheted on her knee, next to a sleeping man, lazily constructed a sandcastle.

The myriad of bodies, a well-balanced cross-section of humans, seemed more comfortable than most beach-goers. Still, they were more relaxed than my upbringing would allow me to be, and I regressed to the self-conscious fat kid I had almost forgotten. Unwilling to disrobe in front of all of the people who didn’t notice me anyway, I walked farther north and tried not to make eye-contact, pretending instead to be more interested in sandpipers and surf.

Before long the crowd thinned out, until I found myself, in every sense of the phrase, in what must have been Adam and Eve’s vacation timeshare. With no human flesh visible in any direction but down, I applied generous sunscreen and spent the next few hours playing like a child in the waves. I was One with the Universe, an intimate part of God’s perfect creation, a God who I hadn’t believed in since the age of reason, and who still loves me enough to bring me to this place. Filled with peace and contentment, I stuck my nose in a book, then drifted into a nap.

I awoke to a hostile voice.

“Do you have a back-country permit,” she repeated, with the same flat tone.

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“Do you have a back-country permit,” once again, louder. In the next few hours it was made clear to me that, while trying to avoid eye contact during my northbound pilgrimage, I had missed the sign which read “PERMIT REQUIRED BEYOND THIS POINT.” I was instructed to begin a walk of shame, in front of the officer, the several miles back to the parking area, and to my car. After I stepped back into my sundress and was issued a warning, here’s what I learned:

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NFL Sunday: a holiday

BY ANDREW CAPLAN
STAFF COLUMNIST

A holiday is defined as a day that is set aside by law or custom which work is suspended or reduced.

On Sunday Sept. 7, the NFL season started. Well, technically it was last Thursday, but unless you’re a fan of one of those two teams, it doesn’t count.

The first Sunday of the NFL season should be a national holiday. And although many people want to believe baseball is still “America’s sport” because it’s America’s past-time, it’s time to wake up and realize baseball is just past its time.

Football is a gateway for young children to get out of their troubled neighborhoods, to be a star in one of the toughest sports in the world. Less and less children play baseball past middle school. They opt for football.

With millions of fans and non-fans hooked on fantasy football, they are glued to their mobile devices throughout the week. It gives them hope. They have a fresh start. Anyone’s fantasy or NFL team could be the best. It’s all speculation before the season actually kicks off.

But once week one does start, reality sets in for most. Many will go back to ignoring their fantasy teams. Many will go back to ignoring their favorite NFL team. And just as many will be excited for the year.

Until that time, America hopes for the best from their teams. Families will gather around the television sets. The day will be filled with cookouts and tailgates, friends hosting game-day parties and plenty of trash talk.

Football is already played on Thanksgiving, and fanatics are often much more thankful for football and food than spending time with their family. So, why couldn’t this past Sunday be a holiday?

I say it’s time to make this dream a reality. No one should have to work on the kickoff weekend. Especially knowing Monday is so close.

Andrew Caplan is a senior majoring in mass communications. He can be reached at andrewcaplan@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @ CappyMIA.
**Longboarding now a club sport**

**By Andrew Caplan**

**Staff Reporter**

Senior William Harris is hoping to get more students to roll with him and friends through the streets of St. Petersburg.

At the start of the 2014 fall semester, USF St. Petersburg officially acknowledged The Longboarding Club as a club sport.

On Mondays, the club hosts a clinic for beginners. Harris, 20, and other club members will show any student the basics of longboarding. The club has extra boards and helmets for anyone who needs them.

On Thursdays, the club usually goes for night rides. Senior Thomas Boyd, 21, is the “director of fun rides” and chooses which spots the club goes to.

In his first semester as the president of The Longboarding Club, after being voted in by his peers, Harris seeks to have a better organized club open to all students interested in longboarding.

Although skaters and longboarders have gained a reputation as vandals and trespassers over the years, Harris said that is not the case here. His club is respectful when asked to leave a location; however, they are rarely bothered.

The most serious thing ever had happen was the police came up to us in the Dali parking garage and they said “Will you please leave?”, and we left,” Harris said.

More often, the club is told the opposite though.

“We’ve literally had the police say ‘Hey, go over to the Dali, we don’t get complaints there’,” Boyd said.

“We have actually been let onto roads and stuff by police during events,” Harris said.

The club offers different experiences throughout their meetings. For their first meeting, the club members pulled a blue tarp above a rider as they steered straight through the obstacle. The tarp or tunnel ride simulates a wave going over the rider’s head.

“Surfing is the main thing and we showcase when his team recovers,” said Taggart. “We’re gonna win a game.”

But the Bulls are staying positive despite the loss and the injuries. They realize they’ve come a long way from where the program was the past few seasons.

“We’re a lot further along than last year,” Taggart said. “I was really happy with the way our guys fought in that ball game, but again, I think its one of those games and one of those situations where our football team’s gotta learn how to win those ball games.”

Taggart has made the Bulls defense one of the team’s strong suits during his tenure, which was showcased when his team recovered four fumbles and two interceptions against the Terrapins.

“I told our guys afterwards that I’m excited for the way they fought, for the way they played,” Taggart said. “That’s South Florida defense, That’s what I know South Florida defense to be.”

Taggart has his players believing in the new 3-4 defensive scheme that was put forth this year.

“We’re making strides in the right direction,” linebacker Auggie Sanchez said. “We’re gonna win a lot of games.”

The Bulls will host their third straight home game to start the season at 3:30 p.m. on Sept. 13 against N.C. State.

The Bulls believe they will bounce back and be ready come Saturday afternoon.

“We’re a team at the end of the day and we just gotta learn to grow from it and go back and practice harder, ya know, and tune in on the little things that we need to get right and we’ll be good come N.C. State,” defensive tackle Todd Chandler said.

**Meet Tampa Bay Buccaneers Gerald McCoy**

McCoy will be at Elder Ford in Tampa from 2-4 p.m. on Sept. 13. There will be a cookout at the dealership, and there is a limit of one free autograph per person.

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