10-6-2017

Crow's Nest : 2017 : 10 : 09

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Genshaft breaks her silence

President defends ouster of Chancellor Wisniewska
By Micheal Moore Jr.
michaelmoor@mail.usf.edu

A national search to find a new regional chancellor will begin next August, 11 months after Sophia Wisniewska was ousted for the way she handled Hurricane Irma.

That announcement came Friday as USF system President Judy Genshaft broke a silence of nearly three weeks and met with faculty, staff and students on a campus that is still absorbing the after-shocks of Wisniewska’s abrupt departure.

Genshaft stressed that she acted because student safety is paramount – a reference to Wisniewska’s decision to leave town the day before the hurricane was expected to hit the Tampa Bay area.

She said she consulted others before taking action, denied that she has acted unilaterally on issues important to the St. Petersburg campus, and stressed that key initiatives on campus will proceed apace.

“Your’re not a campus in crisis,” said Genshaft in an apparent reference to a headline on Sept. 25. “(I) talked to every single (St. Petersburg) Campus Board member. I talked to every single (USF system) Board of Trustee member during and following Hurricane Irma. I did a lot of consulting with the (state) Board of Governors as well as the (education) chancellor of the state.”

Asked if she consulted anyone on the St. Petersburg campus, Genshaft said she did. But she declined to mention any names, saying that would be unfair to them.

When he was asked why she had taken so long to come to St. Petersburg, Interim Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock intervened.

He said he asked Genshaft to give the campus some time to recover from Wisniewska’s departure and “get back on its feet” before she visited.

Although she never mentioned Wisniewska’s name, Genshaft repeatedly referred to student safety, saying that “the safety and welfare of students is a non-negotiable item.”

“There is simply a line in the sand – that if there are any students, faculty or staff that are in jeopardy under your leadership you have to really do something about it,” she said.

President failed to appease her fiercest critics
By Timothy Fanning
jfanning@mail.usf.edu

When the president of the USF system abruptly removed Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska last month, no critic was fiercer than professor Raymond Arsenault.

The ouster, he said, was “more like an execution than a resignation.” He slammed President Judy Genshaft’s move as a “gross overreaction” that trampled on due process, ignored senior faculty, ruined Wisniewska’s reputation and threw the St. Petersburg campus into turmoil.

Now, three weeks later, Genshaft has still done or said nothing to mollify her harshest critic.

On Friday, when she appeared on campus for the first time since the ouster, Genshaft met privately with a small group of senior professors before publicly addressing a larger group of faculty and staff.

She spoke about her attempt to create a seamless campus system — Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee — that collaborates to improve retention and graduation rates and stresses the importance of student safety.

Arsenault’s reaction?

“She spent the majority of our time telling us things that everybody in the room already knew,” he said later.

“We just couldn’t get to the core of the matter, and I am very disappointed,” said Arsenault, who has worked with 12 interim and permanent campus leaders since he came to teach on the St. Petersburg campus in 1980.

“I wanted to have a chance to tell her how dispiriting this is in terms of instability. Sophia was the fourth full-time regional chancellor in a row that was removed. I don’t think she (Genshaft) quite heard me in the way I wanted her to hear me. I was trying to communicate to her that the way she removed Sophia created a needless crisis.”

Although Genshaft said Friday that she consulted state legislators, members of the Board of Trustees and others in St. Petersburg whom she declined to identify, senior professors like Arsenault have said they were caught flat-footed by Genshaft’s move. Some of them said that, given the importance of the issues at hand, they weren’t given enough time in Friday’s meetings with Genshaft to discuss their concerns.

“I don’t think she dealt with our criticisms directly,” said Jay Sokolovsky, a professor at USF St. Petersburg since 1994 and chair of the Department of Society, Culture and Language. “She kept saying that she loves this campus and she knows that we are moving it forward. But I don’t think she convinced many faculty who have been here a long time that this was actually the case.”

Arsenault, a professor of Southern history, attended both faculty meetings, hoping to have a longer discussion with Genshaft.

“Nobody got to counter Judy’s decision to force Sophia to resign. What I wanted to say was that her status, the faculty’s status and the campus’ status look foolish in the...
Campus athletics are possible, but at a cost

By Delaney Brown
delaneybrown@mail.usf.edu

A
fter years of discussions to introduce intercollegiate sports, the university received an early and positive possibility of bringing them to campus. It is entirely possible for USF to build a campus to host a program, according to senior vice president Kurt Patberg of Athletic Staffing and Consultants.

Former Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska hired Athletic Staffing and Consultants, a college and university consulting service, to do an athletic feasibility study.

The study looked at location and resources and evaluated the costs of moving into various collegiate governing bodies.

Though there are three main national athletics organizations, Patberg recommends that the school enter the college athletics scene as a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). The NAIA offers a mid-range start-up cost and already has a strong presence in Florida. The most logical conference for the university to compete in, according to the study, is the Sun Conference, a group of 12 competing schools from Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

In order to be considered for conference, the school must sponsor at least eight of the 15 conference-sponsored sports. For the university, Patberg proposed men’s and women’s soccer, cross country, golf, tennis and softball. The sailing team, which is governed by a separate national organization, would have no effect on the school’s admittance to NAIA.

Campus athletics will, however, come at a cost to students. Introducing those eight new sports costs approximately $1.5 million. Wisniewska made it clear that an athletic program would come out of student fees, and in order to raise the funds necessary to introduce eight new sports, Patberg suggests raising the per credit hour athletic fee to $14.46. The current per credit hour athletic fee of $2.45 goes directly to the Tampa campus in exchange for access to its football and basketball athletic programs.

Students at the St. Petersburg campus also pay a $5 block fee per semester. Half of this money is sent to Tampa, while the remaining $2.50 is used for upkeep of the women’s sailing house on campus.

In addition to the increased athletic fees, students would still pay $2.45 per credit hour to the Tampa campus. “While there is a projected number, before a fee increase happens, it would need to come before the student body,” said David Thompson, student body president. “The cost per student is ultimately up to the students.”

Student body leaders also said that he sees many positive effects of bringing athletics to campus.

“In my experience working with students, many of them want to bring athletics to campus because they want to have a stronger campus culture and feel like they attend a traditional college campus,” said Thompson.

Initial Sport Considerations

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<th>Sport</th>
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<th>Scholarships</th>
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<td>Men's Soccer</td>
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<td>Softball</td>
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Depicted above are the initial sports under consideration by the university, as well as their size and the number of athletic scholarships available per sport.

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Senior business management hopeful for Council seat

By Dinorah Prevost
dprevost1@mail.usf.edu

A
other USF St. Petersburg student is running for a City Council seat this November. Jerick Johnston, 21, a senior business management major, is running for St. Petersburg City Council’s District 4 seat against popular incumbent Darden Rice.

This run is Johnston’s first venture into politics. A St. Petersburg native, he is running for District 4 because he’s lived there his entire life.

In challenging Rice, he said he wants to bring a younger voice to City Council.

“I want to make it easier for small businesses to work in our city, bring a new voice, a young voice to City Council and try and get more young people involved in city government,” he said.

“I just wanted to make an impact in the community. We’re challenging city and I wanted that to be represented,” Johnston said.

Fiscal responsibility is one of his top priorities, and he also wants to deal with the city’s sewage problems in an environmentally friendly way.

He also opposes spending an extra $10 million on rebuilding the pier and range of the Albert Whitted sewage plant, which current mayor Rick Kriseman closed in 2015.

However, Rice is likely to be re-elected, as she is experienced and a popular progressive voice on City Council.

In its recent editorial that endorsed candidates for the three City Council seats, the Tampa Bay Times endorsed Rice, and harshly criticized Johnston’s “vague understanding of other city issues,” calling him “no credible opposition” to Rice.

“I have run a credible campaign and am just as competent and prepared for office as any other candidate that has not served for four years. Age should not be an issue in this race,” Johnston said.

“I have spent countless hours educating myself and talking with city officials to become well-versed on all the city’s issues, I, along with those who will vote for me over the next month, believe I am well equipped to take office.”

Johnston is the second USF St. Petersburg student to run to this local election office. He joins graduating student James Scott, who ran for St. Petersburg City Council District 6 in August. Alum Corey Givens Jr. also ran for District 6.

Givens and Scott both fell short to candidates Justin Bean and Gina Driscoll, dropping out of the race after the Aug. 29 primaries.

Campaigning and participating in debates have come with having a learning curve for Johnston, a self-confessed introvert. In an extroverted dominated political world, Johnston wasn’t phased from running.

“This is so far out of my comfort zone,” he said. “I’m going for it. It’s growing on me and I’m finally starting to loosen up,” he said.

Johnston is a fan of author Susan Cain, who wrote “Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can’t Stop Talking,” and her website “Quiet Revolution.”

Since its release in 2012, “Quiet” has marked a turning point in public understanding of introversion. In it, Cain argues that introverts are undervalued in heavily extroverted Western society, despite the benefits of their unique insights into the world.

Cain’s popular TED talk, “The power of introverts,” has racked up over 24 million views on YouTube and ted.com since 2012.

“I love her TED talk,” Johnston said.

Johnston started his own consulting company at 18, Johnston Consulting, and works “almost full time” as its president and CEO.

In the past, he’s balanced the demands of his company with a full course load at the university. When it came time to work on his campaign, Johnston went to part-time status.

Johnston describes himself as a techie and “movie buff.” He was also a fifth generation beekeeper.

Because of the Florida heat, he gave up bee-keeping in his backyard, although he said he may return to it one day.

“Part of the (downside) for me here is the weather because it’s so hot and you have to put the whole bee suit on. If you’re not doing it in the winter, it’s scorching and it’s a year-round activity to maintain them,” he said.

“It would break my heart to leave them by themselves (during the summer) to where they may not survive.”

Municipal elections for mayor and City Council are on Nov. 7. Information from the Tampa Bay Times was used in this report.

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CORRECTIONS

The author of an article titled “Connect’s highly anticipated first concert series launched” was misidentified. Alex Fabanks wrote the article, not Brianna Rodriguez.

Emily Wunderlich’s year and major were misidentified. She is a Freshman majoring in Communications.

Business was misspelled in a headline.

Tuition was misspelled in a headline.

The wrong date was given on a Lunch and Learn for Monday, Oct. 2. The date of the event was Oct. 3.

A photo caption in the story “Who let this doggo in?” was misidentified as former Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska.

A story last week mistakenly referred to a HAB sponsored karaoke event as “Sing It” when it should been called “Open Mic Night.”
New head of Campus Rec focused on growing department

By Jeffrey Waitkevitch

A

l Gentilini is the captain of the Campus Recreation ship, and he wants to do more than just keep it afloat, he wants to sail it to the promised land.

As the associate director, Gentilini is in charge of the fitness center, the waterfront, the pool and The Edge. His vision is to make Campus Recreation the zenith of its class while competing with universities like Texas A&M and the University of Florida.

Gentilini feels that USF St. Petersburg can be the role model for smaller, predominantly community colleges.

One of his goals is to move the fitness center to The Edge to create a centralized campus recreation system.

“Eventually USFSP is part of the system, it has a different identity and culture, which is what brought me here,” said Gentilini. “The bigger university has its pros and cons; the higher up you go, the less day-to-day interaction you have with the students. And to me, in order to make those decisions you need to have your finger on the pulse, your feet on the ground and you have to learn from the students.”

For Fallon Hartig, competitive sports coordinator, Gentilini was an immediate influence.

“One of the things that he really wanted to do was get our identity out there a little bit better and established more,” she said. “We got new uniforms, we changed the logo up a little bit more, although it may seem small, it’s made a huge impact.”

Hartig has been part of USF St. Petersburg for over two years.

“When I first met him in his interview, he was very charismatic and he seemed genuine,” Hartig said. “And I was like ‘there’s no way this guy is this nice,’ but as I’ve gotten to know him, that’s who he is. He’s just a really great guy.”

Originally from New Jersey, Gentilini has lived most of his life in Riverview, Florida. Outside of work and campus recreation, he is the father of a 9-month-old.

While he doesn’t consider himself an “adventure junkie,” he has traveled to New Zealand and tried his hand at skydiving and hang gliding.

Moreover, he is one of a elite class of triathletes to complete an Ironman Triathlon, a race comprised of a 2.4 mile swim, a 112 mile bike ride and a marathon 26.22 mile run back-to-back.

Gentilini credits his father for many significant lessons he’s learned in his life.

“My father worked hard. He put his family, his team, before himself and I’ve taken that trait on. I care more about the person than I do the job,” said Gentilini.

Military Success Center provides second home for veterans

By Brianna Rodriguez

A

nyone who enters the Military and Veterans Success Center is immediately greeted with the phrase “welcome home.”

Many students who qualify for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits have experienced the hardships of deployment. Veterans spend months dedicating their time away from their family to serve. Spouses and dependents experience the absence of their loved ones temporarily or permanently due to deployment.

“The greeting of welcome is literal to me. Whenever I enter the door, I feel like I am among family because of the atmosphere and the people,” said Jacquita James, a senior psychology major.

“I feel a sense of overwhelming joy when I come in here. I am always greeted with a smile. This place was the deciding factor for me to come to USF full time,” she said.

This is why the Military and Veterans Success Center aims to be as warm and welcoming as possible.

“We offer a sanctuary for students that have different life experiences than maybe the traditional student and we can reach out to those students,” said Ryan Rains, an environmental science major and work study student.

The Military and Veterans Success Center opened in fall 2015 in order to help veterans transition from military to college life. The center now provides services for 245 veterans and 198 dependents, and those numbers continue to grow.

The center started as a single, tiny space with just a few tables and computers. Now there are rows of computers and multiple tables that always seem to be in use. The second room contains a kitchenette with access to free drinks and snacks.

Free printing is also available to students.

The VA work study students are staffed peer counselors who sit down with students to assist them with the benefits application process. This ensures that students gain access to the benefits that they need in order to continue their education.

“Given what we started with, we have 100 percent more than what we had. But we still are only 50 percent of the way to getting what we should have,” said Milton White, assistant director of the Military and Veterans Success Center. “We should have a vet space that offers paid tutoring and academic assistance and paid on staff professional career counselors that actually are embedded with us.”

Veterans often feel out of place when they attend classes with students that are much younger and have had different life experiences.

“I open up all of my presentations with a picture of Billy Madison, where he’s sitting in a classroom with all the kids,” said White. “The reason I do that is not only because of the age difference, but because every veteran that sits up in a classroom with younger students, they will feel just like Madison. It’s their life experiences. They feel like the old guy and my life experience has really separated me from those around me in the classroom.”

White talked about the growth of this program and the hopes of the overall continual expansion of the center.

“I am happy that we have this great beginning in the assistance that we are starting to offer veterans. I still see this as a beginning. I don’t see it as the final,” said White.

The center recently received a $10,000 grant from the Duke Energy Foundation and Tampa Bay Rays as part of their Victories for Veterans initiative. The money will provide students short term $1,000 to $2,000 loans to cover their tuition costs while waiting for their VA educational benefit payment to pay out.

The cost of education is a financial sacrifice for students. However, students who benefit from VA educational benefits have sacrificed more than just a financial burden.
Judy Genshaft announced Friday that the university would be conducting a national search for a new regional chancellor starting in August, nearly 11 months after Sophia Wisniewksa’s departure.

Judy Genshaft fielded multiple questions about adjunct professors from individuals wearing “Faculty Forward” T-shirts, often deferring to her legal team.

CRITICS, continued from P1

status, the faculty’s status and the campus’ status look foolish in the press and in the eyes of the city,” Arsenaualt said. press and in the eyes of the city,” Arsenaualt said.

“I can’t go anywhere without someone asking me, ‘Why on earth did (Genshaft) do it?’ I don’t think she realizes the public relations disaster she is going to have. It’s not going away tomorrow.”

Arsenaualt said the only good that came of the meetings was Genshaft’s announcement that the university will begin looking for a new regional chancellor in August.

“The search is a long, very time-consuming process,” Sokolovsky said. “I think the campus is very eager to move on. Up until the moment she told us it (the St. Petersburg campus) was going to help in the search, some of us were concerned that given the suddenness of yet another firing of a head of campus, that this would foretell some change in how our campus leaders are chosen.”

But Arsenaualt said he fears the near-constant turmoil in the leadership of the St. Petersburg campus will complicate the search for a new regional chancellor.

“Judy has been here 17 years, and she has removed four chancellors, all of whom I think were doing a good job,” Arsenaualt said. “We didn’t get a chance to talk about how dispiriting this is in terms of instability.”

“Who would take the job when the last four (St. Petersburg chancellors) have been fired?” he said. “So you come here, with a distinguished career like Sophia, and after four years, you are humiliated and trashed in front of the press? I mean, I wouldn’t take it, and I hate to say that.”

Arsenaualt said the St. Petersburg campus has always needed someone to stand up to Tampa, and he fears that if the campus does not have a chancellor with “some backbone, who will stand up for us,” that it will “cripple us.”

“I’ll probably retire in a few years, and I hope that by the end of it, I can really be proud of the way this place has become,” Arsenaualt said.

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Review: Emma Stone hits near perfect shot in new flick

By Jeffrey Waitkevich
Contributor

I n 1973, the exhibition match dubbed the “Battle of the Sexes” brought the women’s rights movement to the tennis court. Spearheading that movement was Billie Jean King.

Now the film “Battle of the Sexes” recreates that magic.

Because of the importance of the event it depicts, “Battle of the Sexes” had the potential to be one of the greatest biographical sports films of all time, and the timing couldn’t be better. This year had no shortage of women’s rights movement to the forefront.

This year has been in every other role. As for co-star Carell, while his performance was impressive and his big name surely attracted audiences, he wasn’t right for the role. Playing every role from an animated squirrel, to a secret agent, to a 40-year-old virgin, Carell has always been a goofy, lovable character. Rooting against him is tough because of how likeable he has been in every other role.

As for the supporting cast, Pullman is a strong choice for King’s Women’s Tennis Association circuit. Marilyn Barnett (Andrea Riseborough), King’s hairdresser-turned-lover, was more of a plot object than an impactful character. Margaret Court (Jessica McNamee) was underrated, and the most significant impact. She played the antithesis to King, a tennis player who doesn’t speak out. Instead, she just shoots looks at King when she gets a little too close to Barnett — a nod to Court’s long history of homophobia.

The film finely recreates the women’s rights movement and pulls no punches in showing how much oppression women faced in that period.

The film almost felt like “Wonder Woman” with tennis rackets. In addition to women’s rights issues, the film touches on a wide range of societal issues. The depth of the storyline is impressive. While most tennis fans will enjoy it for the notable stars of the game, everyone will be able to find some aspect to relate to—even if it is merely listening to old men spew nonsense on television.

The visual aspects of the setting were strong as well. While older viewers could probably find some irregularities, they may appreciate the throwback airport television chairs, the Sugar Daddy advertising and the old-tyme haberdashery that are no longer present. There was also a plethora of scenes of Riggs playing a style of tennis that only seems possible in the most outrageous video games. He dresses up as Little Bo Peep and plays using sheep as his teammates in one scene and walks large dogs for a bet during another one.

This is where Carell shines, and also serves as a fun addition to an otherwise serious movie.

Conference seeks creative solutions for climate change

By Brandi Reynolds
Contributor

The initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience met in the University Student Center last Wednesday and Thursday to discuss the growing effects of climate change.

The conference focused on regional vulnerability and resistance to change on local and global scales.

Jeff Goodell of Rolling Stone and author of “The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Reshaping of the Civilized World” was among the speakers.

Goodell spent the past three years traveling the world to observe rising sea levels and means of adaptation in place for coastal communities.

He returned to Pinellas County to share what he learned from his travels. During the conference, he shared photos of himself walking around Alaska with former President Barack Obama and of him and his daughter at the Grand Canyon.

“I really do think that from my travels around the world there really is an amazing opportunity here for a lot of really creative stuff,” Goodell said.

Jacqueline Patterson, director of environmental and climate justice at NAACP, spoke on the possible local implications of climate change and sea level rise on St. Petersburg, as well as the initiatives already taken by the university to promote sustainability through the Student Green Energy Fund, the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment in 2016 and its dedication to achieving carbon neutrality entirely by 2050.

Patterson said that while some coastal cities have implemented porous sidewalks and that it is a feasible option for St. Petersburg, there is a future in which people will inevitably have to relocate. According to Patterson, “it’s just a matter of time.”

Further discussion of the status of St. Petersburg throughout the conference revealed the Tampa Bay area to have the highest number of days with elevated levels of smog and pollution in the state -- which has only been emphasized by the 430,000 gallon sewage spill in wake of hurricane Irma.

The conference took place over Wednesday and Thursday. It featured seven panels of experts in their respective fields spread out across the two days. For those interested in sustainable solutions to the various problems our planet faces today, the Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience Conference had something for everybody.

For Dr. Maria Sgambati, a consultant on environmental and human health issues, this is key.

“Our very lives depend on the planet,” she said.
Defend liberty: the right to keep and bear arms

By Antonio D Fazzalari

Late Sunday night at the Route 91 Harvest country music festival in Las Vegas, an armed gunman opened fire on a crowd of attendees, killing 58 and wounding over 500. Identified as Stephen Paddock, 64, the gunman was found with 23 guns and thousands of rounds of ammunition stockpiled in his room at the Mandalay Bay Resort. Despite following the national tragedy, the media flooded with demands for stricter gun control legislation, including a proposed ban on bump stocks—a device which increases the fire rate of a semi-automatic rifle.

In addition, there were also calls from antigun sympathizers for a ban on rifles, and drastic calls for a ban on firearms across the board. However, the question as to whether not gun control legislation reduces the rate of firearm related crimes is yet to be answered.

The Second Amendment is as follows:

“This well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”

In a free state, wherein every individual is entitled to their natural rights of life, liberty and property, firearms serve as a mechanism through which one may defend themselves against a trespasser in the event that their life is threatened or their property is assaulted and is inflicted upon when no law enforcement is present. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives reports that at the end of 1996, approximately 242 million firearms were available for sale or in the ownership of United States citizens. By the end of 2016, there were more than 357 million guns in circulation in the United States.

This increase in the demand for firearms, coupled with increasingly stringent gun-control regulation—is demonstrated by the drastic increase in arrests of the number of National Instant Criminal Background checks from over nine million to over 27 million at the end of 2016. How, then, is this information pertinent as it pertains to gun control? According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, firearm related homicides declined 39 percent over the course of 18 years, from over 18,000 in 1993 to 11,000 in 2011—a period which overlaps greatly with the expansion of gun ownership and manufacturing. Furthermore, the BJS reports that nonfatal firearm crimes declined 69 percent, falling from 1.5 million victimizations in 1993 to 467,300 victimizations in 2011. The correlation between the expansion of gun ownership and manufacturing and the falling firearm crime rate in both lethal and nonlethal circumstances suggests that as gun ownership, and thus self-protection, increases, criminals are less likely to commit firearm related crimes because the victims of such a crime may be fully prepared to defend themselves.

While in the case of the Oct. 1 Las Vegas shooting it is unclear as to whether or not an expansion of gun ownership amongst victims and onlookers has a direct impact, it is fair speculation to assume that Paddock would’ve been less inclined to commit such atrocities knowing that residents in adjacent rooms and perhaps hotel personnel would’ve been armed and prepared to defend their fellow citizens and their own well-being.

As Thomas Jefferson describes most concisely and austerity in quotation of 18th century criminologist Cesare Beccaria, “The laws that forbid the carrying of arms are laws of such a nature. They disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man.”

Information from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, William J. Erekson Gun Control Legislation, U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Christopher Ingram’s There are now more guns than people in the United States were used in this op-ed.

The conversation we need to have about gun reform

By Emily Wunderlich


Stephen Paddock, 64, unleashed a hail of gunfire onto the Las Vegas Strip during the Route 91 Harvest country music festival, killing 59 and wounding over 500 more, CNN reports. According to the news outlet, Paddock opened fire from the 32nd in loco of the Mandalay Bay Resort before turning the gun on himself. The motive remains unclear.

President Donald Trump addressed the tragedy in a brief but solemn statement on Oct. 2, calling it “an act of pure evil.” He also ordered all flags to be lowered to half-staff. “Hundreds of our fellow citizens are mourning the sudden loss of a loved one—a parent, a child, a brother or sister. If you cannot fathom their pain, we cannot imagine their loss.”

“Our unity cannot be shattered by evil, our bonds cannot be broken by violence, and though we feel such great anger at the senseless murder of our fellow citizens, it is our love that defines us today—and always will, forever.”

Trump will visit Las Vegas Wednesday, to meet with law enforcement, first responders and families of the victims.

While mass shootings have drawn on scripture to find solace, it is going to take a lot more than prayers and condolences to mend the scars Paddock and all other mass shooters left on this country. It is time for lawmakers to think outside the box, to move past mental health, terroristic agendas and criminal backgrounds on gun violence. While all of these factors play a significant role, the common denominator is clear: the gun.

Make no mistake: was drafted during a period in which people relied on guns to go about their daily lives, and they were far less capable than those available today.

Nowadays guns serve several purposes in civilian life: hunting and self-defense—neither of which requires a semi-automatic weapon. Leave the AR-15 to the trained professionals. Background checks and identification are not required to purchase firearms in most states, including private sales at gun shows.

By introducing more comprehensive background checks, a national gun registry and a 28-day waiting period to purchase a gun, Australia was able to drastically reduce its number of mass shootings in just a matter of months.

In fact, 18 years before the legislation was reformed, there were 13 mass shootings throughout the country, 20 years later, not a single one. If the number of mass shootings aren’t enough, consider this morbid statistic: an average of 27 people in the United States are killed by gun violence every day, according to The New York Times. It’s time for lawmakers to break their silence and take preventative measures to protect its citizens.

However, there is a glimmer of hope. On Thursday, Republicans in the House of Representatives passed a bill that would be open to banning bump fire stocks, the kind of modification Paddock used. This measure could make it harder for gun owners to configure semi-automatic weapons to act as automatic weapons.

In addition, the National Rifle Association announced that it supports a review of bump fire stocks to determine if they are in accordance with federal law. If the legislation passes, this could bring us one step closer to reducing violence across the country.
Letter to the editor: clarifying the policies of the Wellness Center

By Dr. Anita Sahgal
Director of the Wellness Center and Student Disability Services

Editor’s note: This letter is in response to an article that ran in The Crow’s Nest on 10/02 titled “Wellness Center faces demand for student counseling.” The author wanted to address any questions readers may have by explaining some of the Wellness Center’s policies.

The following explains the process of obtaining counseling at the Wellness Center. It is our staff’s responsibility to accurately assess the needs of students seeking services and use our expertise to make recommendations for what we believe will be in the best interests of the students.

We do this by having an initial intake appointment and discussing as a staff. This allows us to assess resources wisely. Sometimes this assessment and referral can become frustrating but again we want to do our best to provide appropriate care and follow effective processes.

We operate under a brief treatment model, and as this has been shown to be beneficial for the majority of university students. If longer-term or specialized care is needed, we work with students to find community resources. We offer the following counseling services:

- Individual therapy sessions (up to 12) but the average student only uses 3 or 4.
- Group therapy (unlimited), which is a very effective form of treatment and recommended based on needs of students.
- TAO-online treatment focused on skill building
- Crisis intervention for urgent needs (in-person walk-in appointments and after-hours counseling)
- Victim advocacy (on-call services)
- Non-therapy services that promote well-being (biofeedback, massage therapy, referrals for personal training)

We currently do not charge for any of our therapy services. We generally do not have to wait more than a 10-day waiting period to get an initial appointment.

Exception can occur during peak periods (still no more than two to three weeks) or if students have limited scheduling options. Specialty services (psychiatry, nutrition) may have longer wait times because of less appointment availability.

We offer psychiatry with no co-pay, which is uncommon across college campuses. However, we do require that students are established clients with the center to obtain a referral to psychiatry (generally, that involves an initial assessment plan or several sessions with your therapist).

We do this for several reasons:

- Because research demonstrates increased effectiveness when professional guidelines and psychopharmacological treatment are combined.
- It allows us to make the most of a very limited resource.
- Allows the therapist to gain a better understanding of what their client may need.

The Wellness Center proudly offers a comprehensive array of services, counseling, medical, health education, victim advocacy, and professional treatments within the parameters of our resources and our professional training.

I believe we have demonstrated our commitment to service by our efforts to reaccreditation of the Association of Counseling Services accreditation. We are here for our campus and we look forward to expanding our capacity in the coming year. We always welcome feedback and questions.

RIP Tom Petty (1950-2017)

By Amber Nicol
Contributor

Tom Petty was a Florida boy. He was born a Libra, in Gainesville on Oct. 20, 1950, a true artist with an incredible biography and a whole lot of American soul. So, he did have the greatest voice that ever rang out on a radio, or the handsome looks of other rock stars and a graced the front page of Rolling Stone — but damn, could he write a song. And, damn, did he love heart! “American Girl,” “Breakdown,” “Mary Jane’s last Dance,” “Free Fallin’,” “Refugee,” “I Won’t Back Down”— I mean these are some of the first songs musicians learn, and grow up on. These are the songs of an American childhood, regardless of age.

His classic, a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame figure, a Hollywood star and he will live on through his well-crafted lyrics, influencing generations to come. Tom Petty sold over 80 million records during his lifetime, making him a top selling artist and giving him a permanent billing in music history. How about a round of applause for his final bow? This man lived a sensitive life, complicated by a childhood of abuse inflicted by his own father; decades of battling drug addiction and — then and all the other life struggles we face.

What’s most beautiful about Petty, is that he didn’t feel the need to hide any of that from us; he was in touch with himself. It seems to me that he channelled all of his worries and woes into his music, and in doing so, he created a beautiful and beautiful world that we can enjoy and reflect upon. Petty had this incredible knack for making millions of people feel something better, if not so good. He brought people together in a timeless way. He made us happy, and for a few moments as if we were free falling.

How many joints have been smoked to “Mary Jane’s Last Dance?”

How many kegs have been tapped to “American Girl?”

Tom Petty: The Heartbreakers. For all the tremendous success he experienced over the course of his career, he didn’t even see his first No. 1 album until 2014.

All those years he was just rocking the American soul. He left us too soon, passing from his 66th birthday, but he will be missed and remembered, and added to mix tapes and streamed on laptops — and one day, we’ll all wind up, “in between a memory and a dream.”

I hope they have jam sessions in heaven.

What to do this week: October 9-15

By Lis Casanova
lis@mail.usf.edu

MONDAY

Brace yourself: Homecoming is coming. Actually, it kicked off yesterday (kind of), so it’s pretty much already here. Whether it’s kind of thing or not, there will be plenty for everyone to benefit from. This year’s event is all about Carnivals — uhum — Carni-BULL, which reminds me, Homecoming CarniBULL Kickoff will be on Harbor Lawn from 7 to 9 p.m. You can’t miss it, we mean, there will be inflatables, performances, free food, music by DJ TJ Turner, free games and an appearance by Rocky the Bull. You know, the mascot.

Interested in something with a little more kick? Check out Bingo Night at The Brewery from 7:30 to 9 p.m. It’s free to play and apparently, some very exciting prizes will be given away. Also, we’re pretty sure you can make a drinking game out of the whole thing — the dream, who cares if it’s only Monday, it’s after 6 p.m. so no judgement.

TUESDAY

Get your funkiest suits fitted and your most colorful ties on hand and gentlemen, because the Cirque de la Bull: Homecoming Ball awaits. The event theme is what sounds like Cirque du Soleil with a Bull twist. Be at the USC Ballrooms from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. to enjoy the dance, food, candy bar, photo booth and performances before the crowning of our Homecoming King and Queen.

If you signed up for the Cardboard Boat Race Wednesday, then you’re probably already working on making sure your floats. If this is giving you some trouble, or you just need some more supplies, get over to Cardboard Boat Making Party at the Compass Office (COQ 101) from 4 to 6 p.m. Feel free to bring some friends and enjoy the free food. And, if you just looking to volunteer your craftmanship skills, your help is welcome.

WEDNESDAY

Ready to see DIY cardboard boats try to make it across the harbor? Join the party at Harbor Lawn / The Edge for some tailgating fun including free food and activities from 3 to 6 p.m. The Homecoming Cardboard Boat Race is the premier Homecoming event of the week, after all. So, whether you’re gonna be sailing, or just there to watch, we’re pretty sure you’ll get some laughs out of it.

OK, so this event is a little bit on the costly side at $43.50 per person, but it’s probably very worth it because it’s the Harry Potter Theme: Murder Mystery Dinner happening at Jacks London Grill at 6 p.m. Basically, it’s here, take your money” sort of deal. You already know there will be butterbeers and HP inspired drinks, plus a bunch of witches and wizards, as well as many chances to discover the murder clues at HP-inspired table décor. Ticket price does include your drink, dinner, dessert, table and games. Dress up, swing by and... have fun.

THURSDAY

Get hyped for Homecoming, or you, now, just participate because it’s fun. DIY HAB Market has all the karaoke, free food, ferris wheel and fashion activities from 3 to 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. Homecoming Boat Race is the premier Homecoming event of the week, after all. So, whether you’re gonna be sailing, or just there to watch, we’re pretty sure you’ll get some laughs out of it. It’s free to play and apparently, some very exciting prizes will be given away.

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FRIDAY

USF Homecoming XXI Carnival and Talent Contest will have you up and in full swing at 12 p.m., and it’s bringing all the fun and funnel cake you can possibly take. There will be a bunch of awesome rides, games and even a talent show, brought to you by your very own fellow Bulls.

SATURDAY

Finally, the event we’ve been hyping for all week: USF Bulls Football vs. Cincinnati is going down at 7:30 p.m. at the Raymond James Stadium. For tickets go to usfbulls.usfstudents.com/students. Not planning on going to the game? Stay behind and give a free movie at Williams Park at 6 p.m. The Nightmare Before Christmas is playing so, basically, cancel any other plans and go... “This is Halloween” because it pretty much already is.

SUNDAY

End the week (or start it) in a very classy manner with Mimosas and Masterpiece Brunch at The Dali from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It’s a very good excuse to have “one too many” Sunday morning, but who cares? You’re enjoying the classics.

If you rather stay behind at our own campus and chill back at our own USF Student Union, HAB Market between 6 and 10 p.m. and chill by the water for some Tailgate Party fun.
Airport plan would help campus grow taller

By Devin Rodriguez
drodriguez@mail.usf.edu

The main runway at Albert Whitted Airport is shifted a quarter mile to the east into Tampa Bay (upper right in the photo). The airport's main runway runs from left to right in this photo, with one end just across First S from the university, runs 3,674 feet to the northeast and handles about 70 percent of the departures and landings at the airport, according to the consultants' study.

The shorter, north-south runway is 2,864 feet long and accommodates the remaining 30 percent “when weather and winds are favorable for its use.” Airport officials and people who use the airport say it has a good safety record. But it was concerns about safety that prompted City Council discussions in late 2014 that led eventually to talk of extending the main runway.

According to the Tampa Bay Times, there have been four accidents at the airport in 2017:

• On Feb. 11, a plane carrying two people crashed into the seawall at the east end of the main runway. No one was hurt.

• On March 1, a student pilot escaped serious injury when his plane crashed while he was attempting a landing on the north-south runway. On March 9, another pilot escaped injury when her plane skidded off a runway.

• On Sept. 1, a small plane rolled off the end of the south-north runway into the bay, but neither the pilot nor passenger was seriously injured.

In 2014, a small plane approaching the airport from the north barely missed hitting high-rise condo towers before crashing into Vineyard Park, less than a mile north of the airport. Two of the four occupants were seriously injured.

Two years earlier, one man died and another was injured when their plane nose-dived into the main runway shortly after taking off. The plane came to rest about 100 feet from the fence at the end of the runway, just across the street from USFSP, according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

Information from the Tampa Bay Times and "St. Petersburg and the Florida Dream: 1888-1950" by Raymond Arsenault was used in this report.

The main runway extension would increase the airport's good safety record by allowing the university to have taller buildings, said University officials told the City Council in 2015. According to the consultants' study, there have been four accidents at the airport in 2017:

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The main runway, which becomes an issue. Because part of USFSP lies directly beneath the main runway's flight path, some campus buildings cannot exceed certain heights. University officials told the consultants that the flights that zoom overhead are “low, noisy and prevent the upward expansion of any facilities on their property,” the consultants' report says. ‘Although they do understand the transportation and economic benefits the airport offers to the community, the overflights have been cause for concern for many years,” The report notes that Bayborro, Coquina and Davis halls at the Science and Technology Building all lie within the limits of what federal aviation officials call “the runway protection zone.” Because university buildings are considered “incompatible land uses” in such protection zones, the consultants say, the runway should be shifted 1,257 feet — or about a quarter mile — into Tampa Bay to the east. That would put the campus buildings outside the runway protection zone and make possible what Albert Whitted manager Richard Lesniak has called “vertical development opportunities” for the university and other airport neighbors.

In the past, city officials have said a runway extension would also make it possible for more small, corporate jets to use the airport.

With more small and medium-sized corporate aircraft, the airport would generate more revenue for the city and make the city itself “more appealing as a place to host or relocate major corporations,” Clay Smith, the city’s downtown enterprise facilities director, told the City Council in 2015.

But Lesniak downplayed that potential benefit in an interview with The Crow's Nest last week. “I don’t think anybody has a grand vision of landing big airplanes at this airport,” he said. “We will be able to hopefully incorporate more corporate airplanes, but we already do that now. It’s not to the point where it would radically change the way our airport functions.”

The feasibility study, which cost $50,000 in mostly state funds, was conducted by American Infrastructure Development Inc. of Tampa and Environmental Science Associates of Tampa.

The study is part one of a twopart endeavor, Lesniak said. Still to come from the consultants is an assessment of the economic impact the runway extension might have. That assessment will look at on- and off-airport impacts and is not included in the cost of the feasibility study.

The consultants stress that a runway extension would be both expensive — $12.5 million in 2016 dollars — and time-consuming. Lesniak estimates it would take eight to 10 years to complete.

If the City Council wants to proceed, the airport would have to update its master plan with under city, state and federal agencies like Florida Department of Environmental, Protection, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

That would take another 18 to 24 months, Lesniak said. Only then could construction begin.

The City Council could stop the proposal in its tracks, however. Although the council voted unanimously in November 2015 to authorize the feasibility study, several members voiced environmental concerns about extending the runway farther into Tampa Bay.

A proposal to extend the runway also would likely draw opposition from the editorial board of the Tampa Bay Times, which for decades has favored closing the 110-acre airport and putting the prime waterfront land to better public use.

The little municipal airport opened in 1929, decades before classes began at what is now USF St. Petersburg in 1965. But it was not until the campus began to expand in the late 1970s that proximity to the airport became an issue.

Under city, state and federal regulations and laws, buildings that lie beneath or near an airport’s flight patterns cannot exceed certain heights.

That meant that the first new buildings in the early 1980s — now called Davis, Bayborro and Coquina halls — could have only two stories. Campus buildings that are not directly underneath the flight patterns can be taller.

If the runway is extended, it probably would not be financially feasible to add floors to campus buildings that were designed for two stories, university officials have said. It would be cheaper to erect new buildings.

Albert Whitted has two runways. The main runway, which begins just across First Street S from the university, runs 3,674 feet to the northeast and handles about 70 percent of the departures and landings at the airport, according to the consultants’ study.

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Three airplanes on the runway at Albert Whitted Airport, which opened in 1929, 36 years before the first classes at what is now USF St. Petersburg.