Key legislators are emphatic: Make St. Pete a branch campus

By Nancy McCann
Contributor
and Whitney Elfstrom
welstrom@mail.usf.edu

Two influential state legislators who helped torpedo the university’s independent accreditation last year now say that St. Petersburg should become a branch campus when consolidation takes effect in 2020.

That’s welcome news to faculty, administrators and friends of the university who fear that the campus might become an instructional site instead.

Through an aide, Rep. Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor, said he agrees with the Consolidation Task Force’s draft recommendations for what he called “a united and preeminent USF that includes two strong and unique branch campuses” in St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee.

“I fully expect the goals of the report to be implemented,” he said.

Sprowls’ comments were echoed by Sen. Jeff Brandes, R-St. Petersburg.

“We (legislators) have always maintained in every conversation that USF St. Petersburg would be a branch campus,” Brandes said. “I continue to express my desire that it be maintained as a branch campus.

In an interview, The Crow’s Nest asked Brandes what would happen if the USF system Board of Trustees decides to turn St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee into instructional sites.

“If it’s not going in that direction (a branch campus designation), I think you will see elected officials and representatives strongly supporting their communities,” Brandes replied.

What specifically might the Legislators do? He was asked.

“I don’t think we would take anything off the table to ensure that our communities are protected,” Brandes said.

The two legislators’ pointed remarks come at a fraught time for USF St. Petersburg.

The 13-member Consolidation Task Force and a Consolidation Implementation Committee made up of 86 representatives from the three campuses must deliver final recommendations to the Board of Trustees by Feb. 15.

As a branch campus, the draft recommendations say, St. Petersburg would have “its own faculty and administrative or supervisory organization” and “its own budgetary and hiring authority.”

Despite that explicit wording, some campus leaders continue to fear that USF system President Judy Genshaft and her administration want to make St. Petersburg an instructional site.

In a Crow’s Nest interview on Jan. 24, Genshaft said that Petershurg “doesn’t have to be 100 percent a branch campus or an instructional site. It can have a mixture of elements that are unique to our system and accomplish what is needed for students and faculty.”

Meanwhile, some in St. Petersburg grumble privately that Ralph Wilcox, the provost in Tampa, has given signals that the St. Petersburg campus will be more like an instructional site once consolidation becomes final.

Sprosws’ statement

“I commend the work done by the University Consolidation Task Force, led by Chairman Mike Griffin, and agree with its recommendations for a united and preeminent USF that includes two strong and unique branch campuses, and I fully expect the goals of the report to be implemented.”

International conference looks at more than politics

By Whitney Elfstrom
welstrom@mail.usf.edu

When the Conference on World Affairs takes over USF St. Petersburg next week, students won’t have to fight as hard to secure a coveted parking spot.

In the past, parking has been provided in the university’s parking garage, but this year the conference partnered with The Mahaffey Theater, half a mile away, for free event parking. For students, this could mean less university parking spaces holding conference-goer’s cars.

The seventh annual conference will take place Feb. 12-15 in the University Student Center ballrooms and the auditorium of Lynn Pippenger Hall. It will cover a variety of topics from war and politics to public art and legalizing marijuana.

However, guests are still welcome to park in the university’s parking garage with the purchase of a $5 all-day pass.

What began in 2013 as a one-day, 10-panel event that drew 200 people has grown substantially to host 31 panels and over 70 diplomats, professors and journalists.

Before the panels kick off, speaker Chas Freeman, a diplomat, writer and educator whose career carried him to the Middle East, China and Africa will give the keynote address, titled “After the Trade War, a Real War with China?” at 5 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Palladium, 253 Fifth Ave. N.

>> SEE CAMPUS ON P2

THE CROW’S NEST
THE WEEKLY STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG. ALL CONTENT IN THE PUBLICATION IS PRODUCED BY USFSP STUDENTS. SINGLE COPIES FREE.
Students react to new study room checkout system

By Kate Rickman
Contributor

A new online reservation system designed to eliminate waitlists is in effect this semester for checking out study rooms at the library.

Instead of checking out a room upon entry, like in previous semesters, students must now reserve a study room on the library's website on a first come, first serve basis. There are 16 study rooms available for three-hour blocks. Library employees are not allowed to provide a key until they see that the student has a reservation and their student ID. Without the previous system, students signed a waitlist with their name and phone number if the study rooms were full. Once a room became vacant, a front desk employee called to inform the student it was available. Waitlists sometimes became extensive during midterm or finals weeks.

“The new system should be combined with the old one,” said Arabella Keim, sophomore mass communications major. “You should be able to reserve a room, but you should still be able to walk in. I feel like I can’t even use them anymore.” Adriana Barnes, a junior English major, feels it “takes so much extra time” to do an online reservation and that it’s much simpler to “just show up and give them your ID.”

Several students now feel discouraged from using the rooms, as they say it feels like an inconvenience.

“I like it because you are probably going to go at a certain time anyway,” said Theo Lomardi, sophomore accounting major. He said he prefers the freedom to choose the room, like a quiet one on the second or third floor.

Each time a student checks out a study room, they must choose the room capacity needed, the specific room and the time. They are required to confirm the reservation through their email each time.

It seems to be a general consensus among students that the first come, first serve policy is an ideal way of checking out rooms, regardless of whether or not the student regularly checks out rooms.

Adam Arbisi, a junior mass communications major believes that first come first serve is “most viable,” but online booking should not be mandatory.

To reserve a study room through the library’s new system, students can go to usfsp-edu.exproxy.lib.usf.edu/home?group_id=14551.

Need to cram for an exam? Make sure you know the new study room policy.

Kate Rickman
department manager

As an instructional site, St. Petersburg would cede most administrative power, including budget and hiring authority, to Tampa. An instructional site is considered less prestigious than a branch campus, and faculty research might become a lower priority.

If that happens, the “vast majority” of the St. Petersburg faculty believe it “would be catastrophic for us,” according to history professor Ray Arnaut, the president of the USF St. Petersburg Faculty Senate.

But the pointed comments of Sprowls and Brandes make clear that there is a third player in the maneuvering – the Florida Legislature.

When The Crow’s Nest sought an interview with Wilcox on Jan. 25, USF system spokesman Adam Freeman said he was unavailable.

Although the Consolidation Task Force is recommending that St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee become branch campuses, Freeman said in an email that their status is among “the unresolved key issues” in a draft report of the Consolidation Implementation Committee.

“As we’ve been saying for months, final decisions have not been made regarding the academic or governance structure” of the consolidated university, Freeman said.

As an instructional site, St. Petersburg would cede most administrative power, including budget and hiring authority, to Tampa. An instructional site is considered less prestigious than a branch campus, and faculty research might become a lower priority.

If that happens, the “vast majority” of the St. Petersburg faculty believe it “would be catastrophic for us,” according to history professor Ray Arnaut, the president of the USF St. Petersburg Faculty Senate.

But the pointed comments of Sprowls and Brandes make clear that there is a third player in the maneuvering – the Florida Legislature.

“The design will ‘build upon the unique campus identities that the campuses have built over the past and the robust opportunities to attract talent,’” she said.

“The other key part that we always kept focus on was the benefit to the students and also the faculty and staff,” Seixas said. “It was very evident in all of the testimony we received – the passion that the faculty here at USF feel for research but also for reaching those individual students that will one day sit in these (task force) seats.”

As president and CEO of the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce, Chris Steinbocher has been an advocate for St. Petersburg throughout the consolidation planning process.

In an interview with The Crow’s Nest, Steinbocher said he is encouraged that key legislators agree with him that St. Petersburg should become a branch campus.

“We do feel like we were heard (by the task force) … how important (it is) for the entire student experience as well as the community experience that we maintain a branch campus standing rather than an instructional site,” he said.

Bianna Rodriguez, Anna Bryson, Dylan Tare and Amy Diaz contributed to this report.
SG to bring food pantry to campus

By Dylan Hart
dhart4@mail.usf.edu

Student Government wants to make sure that no student is left hungry.
The resolution aims to open a food pantry for students on campus. It was drafted by student body president Kaeden Kelso and senator Gregory Cote.

“There needs to be a food bank on campus,” Kelso said. “I believe every campus should have a food bank to help students with food insecurity.”
The Feed-A-Bull St. Pete legislation is based on a similar program on the USF Tampa campus, which has existed since September 2015.
Kelso said that his inspiration for drafting the legislation came from former student body president David Thompson, who wanted to address financial insecurity, including food insecurity, during his tenure in 2017 and 2018.

While the resolution cites data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. National Library of Medicine on college student food insecurity, it also states that there is a “demonstrated need for this service on the USF St. Petersburg campus.”

Staff members at USF St. Petersburg can send referrals regarding a particular student’s food insecurity to the Dean of Students office. The referrals are then picked up by Dean Jacob Diaz, who will reach out to the students to address their needs.

“Talking with Dean Diaz, it’s clear that there is a need for it on our campus,” Kelso said. “After I heard that, I knew we needed to work on this and get this done as soon as possible.”
Kelso did not have a clear estimate on how long it will take for the food pantry to open, but SG aims to complete it by the end of the spring semester, and Kelso guaranteed that it will be open “within 2019.”

Student Government is considering different locations for the food pantry but is “leaning heavily” on a storage space in SLC 1300.
It also plans on working with the Dean of Students office to provide student employees to check visitors in and out of the pantry.
The USF Tampa food pantry has a dietitian on staff and several fully stocked shelves and is open four days a week. A Nov. 21 article from the USF St. Petersburg website says that the pantry “has distributed more than 24,000 pounds of food to students in need.”

“Since this is our first one, it’s going to be fairly basic,” Kelso said. “When the pantry at USF Tampa started, they started small. We hope to get to their level.”
The pantry will be funded by Student Government, but Kelso anticipates that costs will be minimal, as the pantry will rely on food donations, similar to the one in Tampa.
Student Government funding will go toward shelves.
“I’ve already had people contact me about donating food,” Kelso said. “The community loves what’s going on right now and they hope it actually comes to fruition.”

AFFAIRS, continued from P1

Following the address, Mayor Rick Kriseman will issue a proclamation declaring Feb. 16-11 as International Week in St. Petersburg, and a variety of food trucks will offer international fare.
A jazz concert featuring bassist and vocalist Nicki Parrott, pianist Rossano Sportiello, drummer Ed Metz and trumpeter James Suggs will begin at 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased on the conference website, where a $10-off code can also be found.

Some topics include “St. Petersburg: international dining destination,” “AIDS in the world: waiting for a cure,” “Do like the Canadians; Legalize pot,” “Public Art: what purpose does it serve?” and “Climate change is real. What do we now?”

The size of the event isn’t the only change to occur this year. The conference shifted its topic list from strictly geopolitical to more innovative panels looking at how art and film fit into international affairs.
But what inspired the sudden inclusion of artistic panels?
Thomas W. Smith, a USF St. Petersburg political science professor and co-founder of the conference, said that international affairs are often thought of in a political light, but on the other side, there is culture surrounding music, food and film.
Diane Seligsohn, president of the St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs, seconded this idea and said the world is made up of more than politics, and that politics can be involved in education, art and health as well.

“Anything that’s international can be looked at from an international perspective of interest to us,” Seligsohn said.

Seligsohn and Smith both noted that including more arts panels may help attract a younger demographic. They also agreed that opening up the topics has given the conference more freedom to say yes to speakers with creative ideas.

“We definitely would like to attract more young people, because after all, they are the future of the world we’re living in,” Seligsohn said. “We’re also open to suggestions from all attendees, especially students. If they have ideas for topics for the future, we’d be very interested in hearing what they may be.”

One filmmaker on the schedule is Tom Shepard, director of the Youth Documentary Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
He will be on a panel that will screen two short films by immigrant U.S. high school students who are “navigating their identities in America.”
The films presented will be “Love Me” by Joshua Sun, a filmmaker from China, and “Finding Home” by Yolande Morrison, a filmmaker from Jamaica who will also sit on the panel.

“The power of film and power of art is that it reaches hearts and it reaches minds,” Shepard said. “We need people to report the facts, and we need people to discuss those facts, but I think there’s a way in which film can open someone’s very hardened mind or heart to have a discussion a little outside of their comfort zone.”

The St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs was co-founded in 2013 by Dr. Thomas Smith and Ambassador Douglas L. McElhany. The conference covers a range of international topics from arts to politics.
Remodeled pier in St. Petersburg’s near future

By Iris Pugh
Contributor

After years of anticipation, the public can look forward to the newly designed downtown St. Petersburg Pier. The newly renovated Pier, expected to be completed and open to the public in early 2020, will feature an array of interactive experiences, activities and stunning photo-ops.

The Pier will have a children’s playground, Splash pad, picnic area, multiple restaurants and cafés, expanded beach access, fishing deck and bait shop, and an education center.

It will also feature public art by three renowned artists, including a heavily debated $1.5 million aerial sculpture by Janet Echelman, which can be previewed at http://www.newstpetepier.com/art.php.

Chuck Prather, owner of the Birchwood on Beach Drive, will open a restaurant and bar at the new Pier head. It is expected to have a sophisticated tiki-style ambiance. His design will include an upscale restaurant, a rooftop bar and a café.

Doc Ford’s Rum Bar and Grille, associated with bestselling author Randy Wayne White, will have a waterfront location on the pier approach.

The latest plan will replace the inverted pyramid pier, which opened in 1973. The former pier was closed May 31, 2013, due to deterioration and high maintenance costs.

The overall vision is to create a pier that is not identified by a single building or structure, such as the previous inverted pyramid building was, but rather make the entire redevelopment part of the experience,” said Raul Quintana, architect for the city of St. Petersburg.

Since the demolition in 2015, the area has mostly remained a pile of rubble. In November 2018, vertical construction for the Pier began.

“As a little girl, that used to be the place to be with my family. We would go there all the time,” said Becca Colone, a junior mass communications major at USF St. Petersburg. “Every time a family member came from New York, we would come down to visit, that was something we still ask about it to this day.”

The Pier’s long-awaited renovations and a handful of amenities are expected to attract more residents and tourists to the downtown area.

“The new Pier is redefining 26 acres in the heart of the downtown and connects to our world class waterfront. While much of it is passive, there is something for everyone, and I believe it will complement the growing local culture,” Quintana said.

“We are building a pedestrian linkage to the downtown core with a covered market structure for pop-up markets and vendors. This will help activate the connection of the pier to the downtown.”

Connor Reading, a senior at USF St. Petersburg, moved to the area right after the old pier was torn down.

“I could see myself going there for a nice day at the park or to check out the coastal thicket they have planned,” he said.

There’s still much to be done when it comes to finalizing construction of the pier, but you don’t have to be out of the loop. Documents, presentations, and resources concerning the 2020 Pier can be viewed at http://www.newstpetepier.com/

The new St. Petersburg Pier is set to open in 2020 after its predecessor closed in May 2013.

——

University seeking student art on sex and love

By James Bennett III

College helps young people discover who they are and how they fit in with the rest of society. This month, USF St. Petersburg will push that concept in a more risque direction.

The Dean of Students ambassadors will host an art exhibit Feb. 28, showcasing student art centered around the themes of sex, love and relationships.

All visual media will be accepted, and explicit content will not necessarily be disqualified. Submissions will be screened for inappropriate content and removed from the exhibition if necessary.

Artists can submit work by sending pictures of their physical pieces with dimensions included, or a short film up to 3 minutes in length to dosambassadors@usfsp.edu by Valentine’s Day. If accepted, artists will receive an email the following week with details about the event.

Displayed works will be judged, and awards will be given to the three highest ranked submissions, as well as one fan favorite.

Works up to 9 inches by 12 inches can be matted on a first come, first serve basis. Artists are also able to mat or frame their own work.

Feast on fries at the french fry festival

By Anna Bryson
annabryson@mail.usf.edu

If you don’t get lucky on Valentine’s Day, you can still enjoy the next best thing: eating a ton of french fries the following day.

St. Petersburg’s third annual French Fry Festival is Feb. 15. More than 30 food trucks will be at North Straub Park, 400 Bayshore Drive N.E., from 6 to 11 p.m. serving up delectable hot fries.

Admission is free, and all vendors accept cards and cash.

You can bring your pets, lawn chairs and picnic blankets. TL Jentgens, a one-man band, will play some tunes while street performers entertain.

The vendors will serve up special french fry-inspired dishes, as well as their normal cuisine and most importantly: alcohol.

Get ready to get drunk, lay out by the bay and stuff your face with french fries. What could be better than that? Oh yeah, maybe an eventful Valentine’s Day.
Lovers of history and theater unite at HamilFest

By Amy Diaz
amydiaz@mail.usf.edu

When Gregory Plantamura first heard the buzz around Hamilton: An American Musical about two and a half years ago, he was skeptical.

“How could anything be that good?” he wondered.

When he decided to check it out, his question was answered.

“It was amazing. The music, the story, the intricate lyrics, the foreshadowing, the rhyming, the history which makes it so much more impactful. It’s inspiring,” Plantamura said. “When I’m driving in really bad traffic, I put it on and it takes away all the stress.”

Plantamura said when people get into Hamilton, they really get into it. And that’s what he did when he developed HamilFest.

He found out Mary Anne Hamilton, the widow of Alexander Hamilton’s great-great-grandson is a retired real-estate agent living in Seminole. He learned that Rand Scholet, the president and founder of the Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society, lived in Pinellas County, too. Scholet was a historical adviser for Lin Manuel Miranda when he was writing the musical.

“I figured, hey, with the people we’ve got here, we have the makings to put together a Hamilton festival,” Plantamura said.

Plantamura has experience organizing community events. He put together the biggest Comic Con in Pinellas County: the free, non-profit Pinellas Comic & Maker Con at the St. Petersburg College Seminole campus, which drew around 5,000 attendees in its third year.

“I really enjoy being able to put on free events like this,” Plantamura said. “A lot of people don’t have money and comic cons have been getting so expensive and crowded. I wanted to bring it back to something for the community.”

Plantamura put on the first annual HamilFest last year at the SPC Gibbs campus, using the same model he used for the Comic & Maker Con. There were educational portions of the festival, with speakers, professors and Mary Anne Hamilton, as well as food, music, a costume contest and a talent show.

The festival drew about 250 people last year, and this year, Plantamura expects that number to go up to about 400.

“Hamilton is a much smaller audience, but the Hamilton fans are extremely passionate,” Plantamura said. This year’s HamilFest will take place Feb. 9 at the SPC Gibbs Music Center, 6605 Fifth Ave. N., from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free, although some activities will require a small fee.

Attendees are encouraged to dress up, participate in the costume contest and perform in the talent show. Musical performances aren’t limited to Hamilton; any Lin-Manuel Miranda production will do.

Historical costuming, themed mini-golf and tarot card readings are also on the line-up for the festival.

Additionally, there will be a fundraising raffle with proceeds benefiting Puerto Rico Connect, a non-profit organization which helps connect county residents displaced by Hurricane Maria.

If you aren’t a Hamilton fan, you might not see the connection between the charity and the event, but it’s there.

Hamilton was born on the Caribbean island of Nevis before coming to America and was one of the first immigrants in the United States to make it big. Lin-Manuel Miranda is also from Puerto Rico,” Plantamura said. “Hamilton fans are well aware of this fact.”

If you can’t make it to this year’s HamilFest, it will be live-streamed by Diversely Geek, an organization that aims to promote positivity and mental health through fandoms and pop culture.

The HamilFest is not officially affiliated with Hamilton. Plantamura describes it as “our own thing, just getting together as friends and fans to show our love of the show.”

Mary Anne Hamilton, the widow of Alexander Hamilton's great-great-grandson, poses with Gregory Plantamura, the event coordinator for HamilFest.

Mary Anne Hamilton poses with Lin-Manuel Miranda, the creator of Hamilton: An American Musical.
People love raggling on Florida.
Sure, the infamous not to mention worst—superhero known as Florida Man runs rampant. And yes, we do have alligators that snatch up children at Disney World.
But you know what else we have? Publix.
Publix, where Target shoppers wish they were. Publix, where chicken tendies come on sandwiches.
Dare I say… Publix, where Walmart can kiss my ass.
Here are just a few reasons why Publix really is “where shopping is a pleasure.”
They have old-looking scales
Have you ever wondered how much you would weigh if you just unfurled your jaw anaconda-style and swallowed your groceries whole? I know I have. With scales in every Florida location, Publix helps you stay self-conscious about all the junk food you just bought.
According to a Tampa Bay Times article, the “people weighers,” as their founder George Jenkins called them, were installed after he realized that most people could only weigh themselves at the doctor’s office.
Free cookies if you’re under 12 (or you don’t mind making a scene)
If you’re having a rough day that can only be eased with free cookies, just slam yourself onto the floor, take a deep breath and then let out an ear-piercing scream before chanting, “Give me cookies, give me cookies.”
A pack of sprinkled sugar cookies costs less than $5, but free food tastes better.
I’ve found the same method works when asking for a bank loan.
People respect the rules at Publix
I got cussed out the other day when an older gentleman noticed that I had 11 items in the “10 items or fewer” checkout.
I could have done without his crotchettiness, but had to respect the point that he was making. This was Publix. Not some rinky-dink “superstore” where you can just stroll in, buy a gun, grab a few beers and then proceed to checkout. Publix doesn’t tolerate that kind of silliness.
You get your groceries. You pay the kind cashiers. You leave.
I still stayed in the line though.
The founder looks like Walt Disney
If the founder of the “Happiest Place on Earth” and the founder of Walt Disney World stood next to each other, you wouldn’t be able to tell the difference.
Then again, if we stood any two decomposed bodies next to each other, you probably wouldn’t be able to tell them apart. You would also (hopefully) have a lot of questions.
Way fewer wackadoodles at Publix
I suppose that if you genuinely enjoy singing to your imaginary friends, this one is actually a point for Walmart.
Don’t get me wrong, I love to people-watch. I just don’t like getting hit with the Zuckerberg stare whenever I go grocery shopping.
They promote insider trading
The only way to buy stock in Publix is to work there. This means their employees own the business while having a direct influence over how well the company does.
All jokes aside, Walmart is a perfectly good place to go grocery shopping. To show you how well I practice “balanced journalism,” here are a few reasons you’ll catch me at Walmart.
You get to “test” the food in the produce aisle.
I see you grape thief. We need to respect the point that he was making. This was Publix. Not some rinky-dink “superstore” where you can just stroll in, buy a gun, grab a few beers and then proceed to checkout. Publix doesn’t tolerate that kind of silliness.
You pay the kind cashiers. You leave.
I stayed in the line though.
There you go grocery shopping.
I’ve found the same method works when asking for a bank loan.
People respect the rules at Publix
I got cussed out the other day when an older gentleman noticed that I had 11 items in the “10 items or fewer” checkout.
I could have done without his crotchettiness, but had to respect the point that he was making. This was Publix. Not some rinky-dink “superstore” where you can just stroll in, buy a gun, grab a few beers and then proceed to checkout. Publix doesn’t tolerate that kind of silliness.
You get your groceries. You pay the kind cashiers. You leave.
I still stayed in the line though.
The founder looks like Walt Disney
If the founder of the “Happiest Place on Earth” and the founder of Walt Disney World stood next to each other, you wouldn’t be able to tell the difference.
Then again, if we stood any two decomposed bodies next to each other, you probably wouldn’t be able to tell them apart. You would also (hopefully) have a lot of questions.
Way fewer wackadoodles at Publix
I suppose that if you genuinely enjoy singing to your imaginary friends, this one is actually a point for Walmart.
Don’t get me wrong, I love to people-watch. I just don’t like getting hit with the Zuckerberg stare whenever I go grocery shopping.
They promote insider trading
The only way to buy stock in Publix is to work there. This means their employees own the business while having a direct influence over how well the company does.
All jokes aside, Walmart is a perfectly good place to go grocery shopping. To show you how well I practice “balanced journalism,” here are a few reasons you’ll catch me at Walmart.
You get to “test” the food in the produce aisle.
I see you grape thief. We need to respect the point that he was making. This was Publix. Not some rinky-dink “superstore” where you can just stroll in, buy a gun, grab a few beers and then proceed to checkout. Publix doesn’t tolerate that kind of silliness.
You pay the kind cashiers. You leave.
I still stayed in the line though.

Publix: Where Florida Man feels at home
By James Bennett III
Junior journalism and digital media major
jamesbennett@mail.usf.edu

The Crow’s Nest is committed to provid-
ing its readers with news relevant to the University of South Florida St. Peters-
brburg and its surrounding community. The Crow’s Nest abide by the highest ethical stan-
dards and focuses on stories that help readers make informed decisions on cur-
rent events and issues. All submissions should be no more than 500 words. Writers must in-
teract with the public’s trust in our news reporting and strive to uphold the highest standards of reporting as defined by the Society of Professional Journalism. Opinions in this newspaper do not necessarily represent those of the ad-
ministration, faculty or student body.

Reach Us
USFSP Student Life Center
Office 2400
140 Seventh Ave. S.
St. Petersburg, FL, 33701
(727) 873-4113
usfscrowsnest@gmail.com

Staff
Whitney Elfstrom
Editor-in-Chief
Emily Wunderlich
Managing Editor
Jonah Hinebaugh
Online Editor
Anna Bryson
News Editor
James Bennett III
Arts & Life Editor
Dylan Hart
Opinion & Features Editor
Dinorah Prevost
Assistant Editor
Amy Diaz
Staff Writer

Design
Brianna Rodriguez
Creative Director
Martha Rhine
Photography Editor

Operations
Brenden DelaRue
Business Manager
Rob Hooker
Adviser

Letters to The Editor
The Crow’s Nest accepts letters to the editor. All submissions should be no more than 500 words. Writers must in-
teract with the public’s trust in our news reporting and strive to uphold the highest standards of reporting and for ethical reasons.

February 4, 2019
Men’s basketball is good

By Alec Arroyo
Contributor

USF’s men’s basketball is good. Yeah, you read that right.
The Bulls are 15-6 this 2018-19 season, their highest win total since the 2011-12 season.

Historically, at USF, much of the success on the hardwood has come from the men’s basketball team. The women’s team has made either the NCAA Tournament or the NIT each of the last seven seasons, whereas the men’s team lacked a winning record in six seasons.

Led by a tandem ofguards — redshirt junior LaQuincy Rideau and sophomore Davion Collins — the Bulls have been working to create a winning environment within a previously unsuccessful program.
The Bulls have had an impressive season so far, despite lacking the big-name talent that generally rules the NCAA, like Zion Williamson or RJ Barrett. They rely on Rideau and Collins to be effective scorers while developing some of their younger breakout talent like Alexis Yetna.

Yetna is a redshirt freshman from Paris, France. He was required to sit out his first year with the team due to eligibility restrictions but has logged big minutes lately. He is third on the team in points per game (13.2), first in rebounds (10.1) and tied for third in points in a single game (28).

While Yetna’s impact is seen on a nightly basis, the most important part of the Bulls’ recent turnaround has been the coaching, spearheaded by head coach Randy Gregory. In his second season with the Bulls, Gregory and his staff have helped build a strong program.

Gregory is a product of basketball coach Tom Izzo’s coaching tree, and it shows when examining his philosophy: Dominate the boards with toughness, and use strong guard play to drive the offense.
The Bulls currently lead the American Athletic Conference in offensive rebounds per game (13.8) and lead their conference in defensive rebound percentage (.747).
The only issue thus far has been the Bulls’ record during conference play. USF is sitting at 5-4 within the AAC, and without a strong conference schedule, the men’s team will likely be on the outside looking in during the NCAA tournament.

Be that as it may, the Bulls’ profile as a good candidate for the NIT, a tournament they have not been featured in since the 2009-10 season. If the Bulls and coach Gregory continue down this path, there are bright days ahead for fans of USF basketball.

The next home game is at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 10 against the East Carolina Pirates in the USF Sundome. Student tickets are free and can be found at USFStudentTix.com.

NPR radio host coming to USFSP

By Amy Diaz
amydiaz@mail.usf.edu

American radio talk show host and journalist Joshua Johnson will broadcast his show, 1A, Live Feb. 11 from the USF St. Petersburg University Student Center.

1A, which stands for the First Amendment, is a conversation about current events in areas like politics, technology, and culture. The show is produced by Washington’s National Public Radio station and distributed by NPR.

Usually, Johnson takes call-in, Facebook and Twitter questions while doing his show. His live show at USF St. Petersburg will allow audience members to ask questions.

The event was put together by the Open Partnership Education Network, Poynter Institute, WUSF Public Media and the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay.

“Our mission is to help create a smarter, better connected community that learns and grows together,” said OPEN director Benjamin Smet.

“We do that by facilitating conversations with our university faculty, staff and students, but also as a direct link to our community.”

Themes emerge from the diversity of opinions and ideas brought to the conversation by what OPEN refers to as “thought leaders.”

The latest theme to emerge is civility. Smet said that through continued conversations with various stakeholders and thought leaders, there was “a consensus that there needs to be more civility in our society.”

That’s where Johnson comes in.

“He’s doing, I think, great work in terms of our civil discourse in this country,” Smet said. “So we thought it’d be fantastic to bring him in to town and have him do a show live here and let our community members be a part of the conversation.”

Johnson is a Florida native and got his start at a radio station in Miami. Smet figured that between Johnson’s NPR connection with WAMU and WUSF, and his Florida roots, coming to USF St. Petersburg might appeal to him and his producers.

“It turns out that not only were they attracted to that, but also the fact that we were inviting them to come down in February, where it’s typically pretty cold in D.C.” Smet said. “The producers joked with us that the pitch was good, but we had them at the notion of being in Florida in February.”

The show will be broadcast live from the USF from 10 a.m. to noon, but audience members must be seated by 9:30 a.m. It is a free show, but with limited seating. An RSVP through eventbrite is necessary.

On his radio show, 1A, Joshua Johnson produces the most pressing issues of our time and aims to find how people can connect — rather than divide.

What to do this week: Feb. 4-10

By Bryce Lawson
Contributor

MONDAY

Iberian Rooster, 475 Central Ave., will host an underground market featuring some of the best local vendors in the area. This free event starts at 9 p.m.

Start the week off right with good energy at The Metta Center, 4554 Central Ave., Units E-F. From 7:15 to 8:15 p.m., the center will offer a $10 Monday Meditation yoga class.

TUESDAY

At Climate Talk 101, you can learn the impacts that climate can have on the Tampa Bay area’s ecosystems and plant life. The talk starts at 7 p.m. at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, 1101 Country Club Way S.

Relax after a long day and get some fresh air when Screen On The Green shows “Ralph Breaks The Internet” at Harborwalk starting at 8 p.m.

Free snacks and sodas will be available; just bring a blanket for front row access.

WEDNESDAY

Blues singer Kid Royal is playing at The Hideaway Cafe, 1756 Central Ave., at 6 p.m. This is a free event with drinks will be available for purchase.

Test your skills on the mic with The Cypher: Hip Hop Improv Workshop at Spiffire Theater, 14 18th St. S. Zach Mouriz and Hip-Hop improv group Rhyme N’ Reason will teach you skills to improve your flows and freestyles from 8 to 10 p.m. for free.

THURSDAY

Hoping to impress your Valentine with some new dance steps? The Cat’s Meow dancing group will host The Hep Cat Club at Subcentral at the Iberian Rooster, 475 Central Ave. With a student ID, the event is only $8, with a beginner class starting at 7 p.m.

If you’re not into dancing, Grassroots Kava House will have an evening of intuitive music and art from 7 to 10 p.m. The event is free, but donations are accepted.

FRIDAY

Caddy’s On Central, 217 Central Ave., will host a Downtown Comedy Night featuring Sloan and Sean Finnerty, two local improvisation comedians from 9 p.m. to midnight Tickets are $5.

The Judy Jean folk and blues duet will play at Pinellas Ale Works, 1962 First Ave. S., from 7 to 9 p.m. The show is free, but drinks will be available for purchase.

SATURDAY

End the week with some Reggae and Soul music at The Hideaway Cafe, 1833 First Ave. S. The event has a $10 cover charge and is from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. DJ Kirky C will play Reggae and Ska music ranging from old school to modern.

Rays Fan Fest will be at Tropicana Field, 1 Tropicana Drive, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Various Rays players will be in attendance to show love to the fans. The event is free for everyone. Fans will be given a tour of the team’s clubhouse and test their swing in the batting cages.

SUNDAY

In honor of legendary Hip-hop producer J Dilla, Dalla Kool Records, 666 Central Ave., will host Jay Day: A Tribute To J Dilla. Enjoy free donuts and tons of great deals on J Dilla music and merch. The store is open from noon to 5 p.m.
Daddy Kool announces move at Localtopia

It’s one of the last original businesses standing that spurred the resurgence of Central Avenue’s 600 Block. Now, Daddy Kool Records is gearing up to move.

It was announced Feb. 2 in time for this year’s Localtopia.

The annual market, held in February, started in 2013 to promote shopping at local businesses.

It featured over 200 local vendors, from booksellers to coffee shops. USF St. Petersburg graphic design majors were also there selling their products.

Megan McDonald, Daddy Kool’s assistant manager, was at the record store’s tent at Localtopia. She said the record store is moving to a larger, cheaper space at 2430 Terminal Drive in the Warehouse Arts District. It moved into its current spot, 666 Central Ave., in 2010.

“Investors coming in and buying all spaces really did raise our rent,” McDonald said. “Not to say (that) we didn’t really prosper from all the new foot traffic, our business has never been better.”

Daddy Kool’s last day on the 600 Block will be March 24. At its new location, it plans to host live music and serve beer and kombucha on tap.

It is one of the last traces of Central Avenue’s music scene, with venues like The Local 662 closing in 2017 and Fubar in December. State Theatre is temporarily closed for renovations.

McDonald said the changing face of Central Avenue in recent years also motivated the move.

“Now it’s more for people who have a lot of money to spend on restaurants. So times are changing in general and we think the Warehouse District has a lot of potential and room to grow,” she said.

March 24 will be Daddy Kool’s last day on the 600 Block. The record store is moving to 2430 Terminal Drive in the Warehouse Arts District in April.

Across the park, about 15 graphic design students sold stickers, posters and prints at the event.

From jewelry makers to screenprinters, Localtopia featured over 200 local vendors.

Two women paint a van at Localtopia on Feb. 2. The event draws many art and clothing vendors each year.

About 15 USF St. Petersburg graphic design students sold stickers, posters and prints at the event.

Started in 2014 and held in February, the annual market promotes shopping at local businesses.