For students, many questions

By Emily Wunderlich and Dylan Hart ewunderlich@mail.usf.edu and dhart@mail.usf.edu

The chancellor Martin Tadlock would get a “refreshed role” and a longer title – regional chancellor and vice president. But his duties would be dramatically curtailed. Control of St. Petersburg’s academics and student affairs would move to Tampa, leaving Tadlock to oversee non-academic personnel, fundraising and community relations.

That change of assignment “turns Martin into a glorified development officer,” said faculty leader Ray Arsenault.

Students

“Students first,” says the plan, which promises “expanding access and raising educational attainment.” Students who come to St. Petersburg would get seamless access to academic programs on all three campuses and an expanding range of “student organizations, clubs and athletic opportunities.” And they would graduate from “a top-ranked Preeminent university that is poised for even more prestige and visibility.”

But uncertainty abounds. There would be a single Student Government, not three. The student newspapers in St. Petersburg and Tampa would explore abandoning their print products in favor of a single fully online publication. And what would happen to student fees, which vary according to campus?

Faculty

St. Petersburg’s corps of professors would enjoy the “opportunities, support and performance expectations” that Tampa faculty already have.

The university system would build an “on-campus” to support faculty success in scholarship, research and creative productivity consistent with a Preeminent university on all campuses.”

But if control of academics is moved to Tampa, would most decisions on hiring, promotion, tenure and curriculum be made by deans and administrators there? Would that really improve things for St. Petersburg faculty? In a possible foreshadowing of things to come, many St. Petersburg professors spent countless hours in the consolidation planning process, only to see their input seemingly ignored.

For students, veterans and the St. Petersburg campus in Tampa “are a top-50 national, preeminent university with world-class talent and academic and research programs” on all three campuses.

But critics called it a crude power play by the Tampa campus. The plan for St. Petersburg? “It’s vague in places, but here are some highlights:”

The campus

After winning separate accreditation in 2006, the campus grew in size and prestige while maintaining a small-college atmosphere.

The Currall plan pledges to maintain the small campus mojito while adding the advantages of a large, top-tier research university.

But the plan pointedly declines to give St. Petersburg status as a full branch campus.

Would prestigious faculty and talented, ambitious students really want to come here? Would St. Petersburg really get some “centers of excellence,” as Currall suggested? Would the campus’ business partners and benefactors still embrace it with the same ardor?

Deadlines loom while St. Pete stews

By Nancy McCann

F or weeks, the new president of the university system had stressed that consolidation would be a positive for the St. Petersburg campus, which he called “a gem and jewel.”

Then he dropped a bomb. “Preliminary blueprints” he unveiled to the Board of Trustees and USF faculty, staff and students last week would move control of St. Petersburg’s academic and student affairs to Tampa, 35 miles and a long bridge away.

Currall stressed that his proposal was tentative, with room for big changes. But the deadline for submitting a draft of the document that will explain important details about consolidation is due to the university’s trustees on Nov. 1, just seven weeks away. Stunned, many in St. Petersburg reacted with bewilderment and anger.

What happened to Currall’s pleasing promises on visits to the campus and community?

What happened to recommendations and reports from St. Petersburg faculty, administrators and staff during months of countless meetings?

What happened to the Legislative’s mandate that St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee become full branch campuses with substantial authority over academics and student life?

“The way consolidation (planning) is going for us (St. Petersburg) is a disaster,” said Ray Arsenault, a professor since 1980 and president of the USF St. Petersburg Faculty Senate.

At week’s end, allies of the St. Petersburg campus began pushing back on Currall’s plan.

“As expected, a process fraught with secrecy and politics is not just about consolidating a university system, but consolidating power,” said St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman.

“USF St. Pete has always thrived in spite of the leadership in Tampa,” the mayor said. “As such, continued attempts to seize a beautiful, well-run academic institution in St. Pete will only result in the entire system’s suffocation.”

In an editorial, the Tampa Bay Times said the proposal “is awfully tilted toward the main campus in Tampa” and “neuters the regional chancellor” in St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee.

The newspaper called on state Rep. Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor, the powerful Pinellas legislator who championed consolidation legislation in 2018 and 2019, to step up.

Sprowls seemed to be listening.

At a meeting of Pinellas legislators on Thursday, he said “the Legislature has spoken on this issue” and expects the university system and Board of Trustees to follow both the letter and spirit of the law.

Sprowls, Sen. Jeff Brandes, R-St. Petersburg, was more blunt.

“We are going to continue to support the great faculty and team at USF St. Petersburg and the regional chancellor to ensure the legislative intent is followed as relates to branch campus status,” he said.

As opposition to his plan grew, Currall issued a statement late Friday reiterating that the plan is tentative and evolving.

“The intent of this framework is to provide a perspective through which we will further develop our plans,” he said.

“As I continue with my ongoing listening tour visits, I welcome feedback and ideas from all of our stakeholders, including our faculty and students on all of our campuses, alumni, elected officials, accreditation leaders and members of our communities. USF’s impact stretches well beyond our campus walls, and as such it is our responsibility to ensure that our university is making the necessary contributions to our community and services to elevate our region as a whole.”

>> SEE DEADLINES on P2

>> SEE QUESTIONS on P3
Decades of domination USF Tampa opened for classes in 1969 and the St. Petersburg campus five years later. For years, the St. Petersburg campus was a tiny outpost along Bayboro Harbor dominated by administrators in Tampa. Many professors and administrators in St. Petersburg chafed at that arrangement, and in 2000, a state senator named Don Sullivan mounted a push to sever the two campuses and make St. Petersburg a separate school. Suncoast

His effort fell short, but it prompted Tampa to cede more authority to St. Petersburg and led in 2006 to separate accreditation for USF St. Petersburg.

The freedom helped trigger growth in St. Petersburg's numbers, prestige and swagger -- a stretch that saw "an amazing growth in St. Petersburg's prestige and swagger and led in 2006 to separate school called Suncoast and make St. Petersburg a branch campus of the University of South Florida" and "Petersburg campus five years classes in 1960 and the St. Petersburg system president, Currall inherited the hot potato of oversite of the non-academic support staff."

Don Sullivan mounted a push in 2000, a state senator named in Tallahassee. Rep. Sprows and his allies sided with the task force. In June, they pushed to passage a law that stipulates that St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee will become full branch campuses as defined by SACS. Enter Currall

When he was named USF system president, Currall inherited the hot potato of talking points that came from the Genshaft administration in the last months of her 19-year tenure. Currall used words like "preeminence" and "Top 50" national university. He stressed the benefits that students and faculty on all three campuses would enjoy under consolidation and suggested that St. Petersburg might get several new "centers of excellence."

But he also would wrest control of academic and student affairs from Tadlock and Sarasota-Manatee Chancellor Karen Holbrook and move these responsibilities to Tampa. In an interview with The Times, Tadlock said that 75 to 80 percent of what he controls now in people, money and resources would go to Wilcox, the USF system provost in Tampa.

For years, all academic and non-academic divisions in St. Petersburg have reported to its regional chancellor. But Currall's plan would whittle Tadlock's responsibilities down to university "advancement" and who think Currall's plan ignores state law.

Some of St. Petersburg's longest-serving professors think so too. In a statement sent to Currall on Aug. 29, 17 full professors and Patricia Pettijohn, associate librarian at the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, said documents sent by Currall on July 23 on the proposed academic structure for consolidation do not match the requirements for a branch campus as outlined by the Legislature and SACS.

Branch campuses should have the authority to shape their budgets, hire faculty and tailor programs for their students, they said. The proposed structure "seems Tampa-centric in ignoring not only the importance of local campus leadership, but the potential for locating central administration functions on campuses other than USF-Tampa," the group told Currall.

The proposed plan is made up by Currall, a member of the USF system Board of Trustees, brought another matter of law to Currall's attention during last week's meeting of the trustees in Tampa. Currall presented an organizational chart showing the campus advisory boards of St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee reporting to the president. The boards are composed of community leaders who help guide their campuses.

Wakins told Currall that the law says the campus boards report directly to the trustees. She was referring to Chapter 2018-4 of the Florida Statutes.

"My concern is that the Legislature has language -- specifically regarding the campus boards," she said. "We don't know how the budget process will work in the future." Currall said.

This diminished role of the regional chancellors does not seem to square with the duties of an executive running a branch campus.

Earlier this year, Belle Wheelan, the president of SACS, the accrediting agency that oversees colleges and universities in the Southeast, summed it up this way for a Currall's Times reporter: "A branch campus, she said, is a "full-blown operation with someone in charge."

But is it legal? Sprows and other Pinellas legislators aren't the only people

Correction: Gary Mormino is professor emeritus of the history department. A story in the Sept. 9 issue only identified him as "professor."
USF St. Petersburg spokesman Carrie O’Brion said the universal fee structure could bring positive change to the campus. “We are pleased that students will be able to participate in activities on any USF campus following consolidation,” she said. “In addition, we anticipate being able to expand our Health & Wellness offerings on this campus as a result of consolidation.”

But others, like Dwayne Isaacs, director of Student Life and Engagement in St. Petersburg, weren’t so sure. Isaacs commented on the lack of clarity as to how the consolidation transition would work. “I don’t think anyone has the answer to that.”

**Leaders scramble to solve SG puzzle**

Part of the consolidation plan includes collapsing the three campus Student Governments into a single Student Government Association. The three Student Governments have been meeting since earlier this year for the System President’s Advisory Board. SPAB has worked to prepare for the looming effects of consolidation and has anticipated a single Student Government for the university, but the specifics have long been a mystery.

Now, Currall’s plan shows a “path forward” for SG. But a lot of questions remain unanswered. The plan designates start and end dates for several steps of the consolidation transition. One mark on the calendar is the drafting of a new constitution, which started on June 3 and is projected to “allow for equitable representation of student-elected positions across all three campuses.”

But the specifics of how that would be implemented remain a mystery. David Thompson, who was student body president of USF St. Petersburg in 2016-2017, raised his concerns to the task force about consolidation’s potential consequences for St. Petersburg. “I served as Student Body President when consolidation was passed into law,” Thompson said in an online comment submitted to the consolidation task force. “We interacted with students across our campus and came up with a list of key priorities during the legislative process.”

“Among his priorities were a ‘continued commitment to small class sizes’ at USF St. Petersburg, the continuance of campus-specific organizations like the Honors College and Compass, and the continued authority of SG to fund organizations locally.”

Stop the presses? Currall’s blueprint appears to suggest that A&S fees would be distributed based on the populations of USF’s three campuses. “The resulting financial burden could be higher on students on the smaller campuses,” the blueprint says.

As such, he recommends *The Crow’s Nest* and *The Oracle*. “As long as no one loses their student identification in regards to readership and student campus participation,” the blueprint says. “The staffs of both papers strongly opposed the proposal to merge the papers, and the journalism faculties in both St. Petersburg and Tampa began publication in the 1960s, have always been separate, even in the era when St. Petersburg was a tiny satellite campus under the control of the Tampa. The Sarasota-Manatee campus does not have a newspaper.”

This year, *The Crow’s Nest* was allocated an operating budget of $40,255.80 — a 23.4-percent decrease from the previous year. The paper and its staff of 10 students publishes 500 copies a week. In 2022, the blueprint suggests creating “a plan to collaborate in order to serve the USF Consolidated campuses.”

The blueprint calls for further “assessments/research on readership and student campus identification in regards to considering whether there should be a consolidated structure.”

“As long as no one loses anything, I’ll be happy,” Isaacs said. “If there are gains for each campus, I think that’s what the spirit of consolidation is all about.”

### Undergraduate Students

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A uniform fee structure could mean a cost increase for USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee students.
T   

By Carrie Pinkard clarice2@mail.usf.edu

"Very often for students with anxiety, you can reach a level of improvement in five to seven weeks," Sherry Benton said about the online counseling tool, TAO Connect.

For those not wanting to go to talk therapy, there is also an online counseling service that was founded in 2015 by Dr. Sherry Benton. Benton was the director of counseling services at the University of Florida for six years when she started noticing a trend: There were too many students for the number of counselors.

She said students who showed up at the counseling center were being turned away, some having to wait weeks to get an appointment.

"If you make a student wait four to five weeks to get treatment for depression, you will ruin their whole semester," Benton said.

To combat this issue, Benton, who had a 30-year career in psychology but no business experience, launched her own company, TAO Connect.

Any student with a USF email can log in to the service through the Wellness Center website. Once you do, you’ll be directed to take a screening test that will assess your mental health needs.

The results of the screening will provide recommendations on which of the seven TAO Pathways might benefit you. The pathways include "Improving your Mood," which focuses on depression, "Calming your Worry," which focuses on anxiety, and "Interpersonal Relationships and Communication." The pathways are broken up into modules and sessions. Each module takes 1 to 2 hours to complete, while each session takes 10 to 15 minutes.

For those not wanting to commit to a full pathway, there is also a mindfulness library, where you can watch and listen to individual videos designed to help you "focus on the present moment, rather than ruminating on the past or worrying about the future."

Benton said how quickly students see mental health improvement from using TAO depends on their individual needs and how often they use the program.

"Very often for students with anxiety, you can reach a level of improvement in five to seven weeks," she said.

Benton said TAO isn’t designed to replace traditional talk therapy. Rather, it’s a system designed to help those students who could benefit from self-help or minimal support.

She said not everyone’s needs to conform to the traditional 50-minute, in-person counseling session.

"If everyone went to the emergency room and got an hour with the surgeon, that would be crazy," Benton said. "Everyone who comes in to the counseling center gets 50-minute sessions. But actually, some people could make just as much progress and just as much improvement with a 10-15 minute session online."

Students get a lesson in biology at Boyd Hill

Story and photos by

Patrick Tobin

Contributor

Instead of the sealed off classrooms of USF St. Petersburg, students got the opportunity to learn about Florida flora and fauna at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve.

On September 14, Compass took a group of students to the preserve for a nature walk with Dr. Ana Arellano of the College of Marine Science. The event was one of several of Compass’ “Learning Journeys,” where the organization partners with USF St. Petersburg professors to bring students into the community.

“We really wanted students to have the opportunity to interact with a professor in an outside setting and also learn about an area around St. Pete, so we chose Boyd Hill,” said Ariel Duhart, a Compass team leader who helped to organize the event.

Duhart reached out to Arellano, who had taught her Biology II class. Halfway through the trip, the students stopped at a group of benches, where Arellano talked about her research with the College of Marine Science and answered questions from students.

Though the walk itself was cut short due to trail closures and confusion with directions, students still had the chance to interact with many animals, including owls, snakes and a bat.

"Actually, I’d been planning on going eventually by myself," said Lebron. "I like what they do, how they make these events for all the students here, and I think it’s a good resource around here."
Freshmen receive mentorship opportunities through Innovation Scholars

Story and photo by James Bennett III
jamesbennett@mail.usf.edu

Light chatter and anxious smiles filled the fourth floor balcony in Lynn Pippenger Hall on Sept. 11. The 31 students were there for the Innovation Scholars reception and would soon meet mentors who worked in their field of interest.

Each of the students were incoming freshmen who were accepted to USF St. Petersburg in either the fall or summer semesters and had a 3.8 minimum GPA. Just after 5 p.m., the professionals were introduced to the students who shared career interests. The chatter grew louder as the pairs introduced themselves and snacked on hors d’oeuvres. Prior to meeting their assigned mentors, the students were given a brief crash course on how to conduct themselves around the mentors. The training included pointers on body language, suggested questions for the students to learn more about their mentors’ industries and a warning not to ask how much money their mentors make.

For students, the program aims to deliver insight into potential career paths, one-on-one access to senior community leaders and potential internship or job opportunities later on. In return, mentors will have the first pick among highly motivated students when they are ready to graduate.

Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock addressed the crowd after the students and mentors were acquainted.

“If you know anything about USF St. Petersburg, we have what we call three pillars of the institution,” Tadlock said. “We also have goals that we set within those pillars, one of those is to get students engaged in the community as early as possible and as deeply engaged as possible.”

“Students, I’m telling you right now, this is your opportunity to shine. It’s your opportunity to show up, to be present, be on deck, get everything you can out of this experience,” he said. “Show them what a rockstar you are. And enjoy. Have fun with it.”

Tadlock said the program was inspired by the Chancellor’s Leadership Council, which was formed last year. However, he wanted this program to be more community-based. When he was unable to find another university that ran a similar program, he decided to start working on one.

Caryn Nesmith, who works for the regional chancellor’s office, and Alison Barlow, who works for the St. Pete Innovation District, helped Tadlock put the program together.

Erin Hays, a freshman who hasn’t declared her major yet, said she heard about the mentorship opportunities through the Honors Program and the Chancellor’s Leadership Council. Hays said she hopes to get a better understanding of what she would like to study.

Hays was paired with Craig Anderson, the director of innovation at Bayfront Health. Although Anderson wasn’t able to meet with Hays on Sept. 11, the two have been in contact and will be meeting soon.

“My entire life, I’ve just been in school. And that’s mostly it.”

Hays said. “So I’m really hoping that best case, this gives me a solid plan, or as solid as I can get of what sort of field I want to go into. And worst case scenario, if I find out, ‘Hey, this job isn’t great for me,’ it’s something to cross off the list.”

“Students, I’m telling you right now, this is your opportunity to shine. It’s your opportunity to show up, to be present, be on deck, get everything you can out of this experience,” Tadlock said to the crowd of students and mentors.

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Lizzo preaches her doctrine to sold-out crowd

Story and photo by Thomas Iacobucci
thomasiacobucci@mail.usf.edu

It turns out Lizzo is “100 percent that bitch.”

But we already knew that. The 31-year-old Detroit native who came up through the Houston rap scene — and later relocated to Minneapolis — is no stranger to the big stage. She’s no stranger to the big stage. She’s the singer behind hit singles from “Cuz I Love You.”

In an age of pop music and dance music, it’s a classically trained flutist, Lizzo delivers her doctrine of self-love and femininity to her first ever sold-out crowd on the second leg of her “Cuz I Love You” tour.

Originally scheduled to perform at Jannus Live in St. Petersburg, the show almost immediately switched to a larger venue as Lizzo’s “Truth Hurts” took the charts, resonating with its themes of acceptance and self-acceptance.

“Hey, if I don’t get that I wouldn’t shower that all up,” Lizzo said to the packed arena at one point in the show.

Indeed, true to her word, Lizzo conducted the crowd as a veteran performer, impressing her message of positivity on the audience throughout each and every one of her songs.

Donning a gold leotard and shrugging it off by way of a gold robe, Lizzo emerged, backed by her longtime collaborator and friend, Sophia Eris, to a stage that resembled a platform on which a church choir would stand.

As Lizzo wiggled and slid across the stage during her opening set, Eris commanded the audience as a church choir, keeping alive the theme of delivering a sermon.

As the show continued, anywhere from four to five backup dancers would appear from behind the curtain to complement Lizzo’s signature style.

Twerking and synchronized dance moves were in abundance, though Lizzo commanded the spotlight even without having to move. In an age of pop music and rap, it’s rare that we get to see the amalgamation of these two topped with a deep root of soul.

This was most evident when she belted the opening lyrics from “Cuz I Love You.”

The first five seconds of the title track on her first LP, aptly named “Cuz I Love You,” features Lizzo relying on her vocals, carrying out the opening sequence with a slight vibrato that eventually repeats itself later in the song.

This is a true testament to her singing chops, and she performed her live rendition with as much gusto as the recorded one.

Continuing to perform songs off her latest album, such as “Heaven Help Me,” “Water Me” and “Juice,” Lizzo delivered each with a renewed energy that pulsed through every person in attendance.

Words of affirmation were a common theme of the night, as Lizzo continued to spread her homily.

“There is strength in vulnerability,” she recited to a crowd that clung to every one of her lyrics and words.

Lizzo did not shy away from a chance for an encore. She asked thousands from the crowd. As though she was leading her own personal choir, Lizzo asked thousands of people in attendance to give their best “Ya-Ya-Yee,” before breaking out into her hit single, “Juice.”

A classically trained flutist, Lizzo brought out her instrument for her set’s finale, soloing with the woodwind during “Truth Hurts” and again during her inevitable encore of the call and response, “Juice.”

With “Truth Hurts” skyrocketing to the No. 1 song in the country and her album peaking at No. 4 on the Billboard’s 200, Lizzo is experiencing a truth that is far from anything but hurtful.

In a sea of recycled pop, it’s a breath of fresh air to see an artist straying from the norm. Lizzo has accomplished that, and all it took was being her true, unabashed self.
THE CROW’S NEST

The Crow’s Nest is committed to providing its readers with news relevant to the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and its surrounding community. The Crow’s Nest abides by the highest ethical standards and focuses on stories that help readers make informed decisions on current issues. We strive to be an unbiased voice for the public’s trust in our news reporting and strive to uphold the highest standards of reporting as defined by the Society of Professional Journalists. Opinions in this newspaper do not necessarily represent those of the administration, faculty or student body.

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

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co.wunderlich@mail.usf.edu

No suspension, no worries

By Bryce Lawson
Junior journalism and digital communication major
Bryce17@mailusf.edu

One day after joining the New England Patriots, Antonio Brown had a lawsuit filed against him alleging he sexually assaulted his former trainer on three separate occasions. As a lifelong fan of the Patriots, I was pretty disappointed to hear the news. This got me thinking: Should players be allowed to participate in games while facing investigation?

Brown is considered by many to be the best receiver in the NFL, whose issues with frostbitten feet and helmet regulations took over most of this year’s preseason headlines. After conflicts with Oakland Raiders general manager Mike Mayock, the team had no choice but to release Brown.

In a conspiracy-like manner, the defending Super Bowl champion Patriots signed Brown to a one-year deal worth up to $15 million – peanuts considering what he brings on the field. The Patriots intend to play Brown this season unless action is taken by the league NFL commissioner Roger Goodell has the power to put Brown on player exempt list, banning him from all team-related activities while still paying him to keep him on the roster.

At this time, Antonio Brown has not been convicted of the charges, so if he is eligible to play, he should be on the field. Either way, the team is going to have to pay him, so they might as well use him. The Patriots are known for having a team-first attitude, so Brown is already on shaky ground.

Patrick Chung, a safety for the Patriots, is also under investigation for cocaine possession. So far, Chung has suited up in the f2 regular season games without suspension from the league. He is a key player on the defense, so the only thing I could see keeping him off the field would be a conviction.

In most cases, the league does not suspend a player long-term until he’s been convicted of a crime. There are only a few cases in the history of the league when a player was playing in a scandal and not sitting up to play on Sunday — most notably, the Ray Rice incident from 2014. Rice was released from the Baltimore Ravens after a video came out of him abusing his fiancée. It’s hard being a fan of a team always surrounded by scandal. From the ownership down, that takes away from the team’s accomplishments on the field, hurting the image of the team. For my team’s sake, I hope Brown’s off-the-field issues don’t hurt what could be the team’s record-breaking seventh Super Bowl title.

Comic Sans? More like ‘Serious Sans’

By James Bennett III
Senior journalism and digital communication major
jamesbennett@mailusf.edu

I am sick and tired of all the flak that Comic Sans is given.

Ask any web designer, author or professor who typeface is the worst, and — with the exception of Wingdings — they will almost undoubtedly tell you “Comic Sans” with a smug grin that conveys the sureness of a flat-earther.

Hell, ask any high school student, and you’ll likely get the same pre-programmed response that may as well imply Comic Sans shot JFK. Middle schoolers are less likely to tell you that Comic Sans is garbage, but take away their WordArt privileges and spend some more time hammering in the thought that 12-point, double spaced Times New Roman was given to us by Christ himself, and they’ll get there. How Kafkaesque.

It seems that elementary schoolers and preschoolers are the only ones that can appreciate Comic Sans for what it is: a perfectly valid typeface that, for some reason, the only ones that can appreciate it are schoolers and preschoolers.

So, question everything, or facts that have been barked at when you begin to think for yourself and question the rules or facts that have been taught at you since you could understand them.

For example, you might suddenly look in to the fact that many of the people who signed the Declaration of Independence literally owned people while asserting “all men are created equal.” You might decide that America needs better role models. At the very least, you might decide that Thomas Jefferson, who owned more than 600 slaves, wasn’t the best choice for the nickel or $2 bill.

You might also realize that white men aren’t the only people who inhabit the earth and miraculously come to the conclusion that state-sponsored history books probably left out— or blatantly lied about — some key facts.

So, question everything, eat peanuts with the shells on, storm Area 51 and, for the love of all that is good and holy, start treating Comic Sans like it’s worth a damn. Please.
Beer or coffee? Both are now available on Saturdays

By Jonathan Hernandez Contributor

Popular campus hangouts The Tavern at Bayboro and The Campus Grind are now open on Saturdays.

“We are all sports fans here,” said Dennis Bixler, owner of The Tavern. “We wanted to try something different because college football Saturdays is just something fun to do and get together.”

The Tavern will serve $15 buckets with five mix-and-match beers. They will also offer a limited menu with select sandwiches and appetizers. They are open from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Many would assume The Campus Grind, which shares a building with The Tavern, is also open on Saturdays due to Bulls college football. But according to The Grind, their reason is more straightforward.

Scott Perez, owner of The Grind, says the coffee bar simply “wants to give people a place to go” on Saturdays.

Scott says that The Grind being open on Saturdays “will boost business and people who didn’t know about The Grind will come here.”

The Grind is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with its full menu available.

Good coffee on campus is no longer limited to weekdays. The Grind is now open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

Locals to protest pollution

By James Bennett III jamesbennett@mail.usf.edu

St. Petersburg will join 21 other Florida cities in protesting climate change Sept. 20.

According to the event’s Facebook page, conservationists will meet at St. Petersburg City Hall, 175 Fifth St. N, around noon to “demand real climate action from our elected officials.”

The event was inspired by Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old girl from Sweden who chose to sail — rather than fly — to New York to speak at a United Nations Climate Action Summit.

Last year, Thuberg sat on the Swedish Parliament’s steps for three weeks during school hours and demanded that the Swedish government prioritize the fight against climate change.

In line with Thunberg’s protests, students are encouraged to walk out of their schools and demand that their governments work harder to fight climate change.

Adults are encouraged to walk out of their jobs, too.

This year, according to strikewithus.org, there will be climate strikes in roughly 150 countries. There are 22 climate strikes organized in Florida.

USF St. Petersburg Student Government President Jadzia “Jazzy” Daunt is among the crowd that plans to peacefully protest outside City Hall.

“I feel like, inevitably, (climate change) is going to affect everyone, no matter who you are, or where you are in the world. It’s affecting people now,” she said. “I think we just need to start taking affirmative action in it.”

What to do this week: Sept. 16-22

By Bryce Lawson Contributor

MONDAY

Get your mind right after the weekend with Mindful Monday Meditation Break from 12 to 12:30 p.m. in the Wellness Center SLC2200.

For all those who work in the service industry, No Vacancy 937 Central Ave. is having a Sin’ers Paradise 50% off Industry Night from 7 p.m. to midnight. This is a free event.

TUESDAY

Take advantage of a free 20-minute chair massage from a licensed massage therapist from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Wellness Center, SLC 2200.

Space folk and soul artist J.T. Brown will perform live at Intermezzo Coffee and Cocktails, 1111 Central Ave., from 7 to 10 p.m. This is a free show.

Puppies and yoga take over the Edge West Deck from 6 to 7 p.m. for Campus Recreation’s Annual Fitness Week.

WEDNESDAY

The Office of Student Outreach and Support and The Wellness Center will offer Wellness Wednesday, support for those who need it, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the SLC Atrium.

Subcentral at Thieran Rooster, 475 Central Ave., will host Beauty & The Burg Live! at 5:30 p.m. with special guest Bill DeYoung, a St. Petersburg native and journalist from online magazine St. Pete Catalyst, who will give attendees the inside scoop on music legends. This is a free event, but $5 donations are encouraged to cover the cost of production.

THURSDAY

Two worlds will collide with Banned Books are a Drag: A celebration of banned literature from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Pete Shuffle, 559 Mirror Lake Drive. Local drag performers will interpret some of the world’s most popular banned books. The price for the show is $20 in advance or $25 at the door.

The Cat’s Meow swing dancing group will host The Hep Cat Club at Callahan, 642 22nd St. S, from 9 p.m. to midnight. Enjoy some great cocktails and swing music with cats on call to help if your moves aren’t on point. Admission is $5.

FRIDAY

Lovers of Asian food should head to the Flavors of Asia Food Truck and Beer Fest from 6 to 1 p.m. in Straub Park, 400 Bayshore Drive NE. Notable food truck Anju Korean Gastrotruck and others will be on hand, cooking up the best Asian-inspired dishes.

SATURDAY

As a part of Free Museum Day, the Florida Holocaust Museum, 55 Fifth St. S, will offer free admission to the museum from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Bends, 919 First Ave. N, will host a punk rock show featuring Kevin K. and the Krazy Kats, The New Brutarians, Wrenchers and Gino Goon from 9:30 p.m. to 3 a.m. This is a no cover event.

SUNDAY

Finish the week on a positive note with a fundraiser and donation drive hosted by Swamp Sister Booking and Black Crow Coffee Co. at its Grand Central District location, 2157 First Ave. S. Local musicians and vendors will be on site from 5 to 10 p.m. collecting donations for the victims of Hurricane Dorian. All monetary proceeds will go to Sol Relief, while supplies and canned goods will be donated to local charities.

The organizers of the strike, The Youth Climate Strike Coalition, put together a collective list of demands including respect of indigenous land and sovereignty, implementation of sustainable agriculture and a green new deal. More than 200 people indicated they were attending the St. Petersburg event.
Do you know what to do?

By Savannah Carr
savannahc4@mail.usf.edu

Nobody expects an armed intruder to come to their school. However, one way to eliminate some of the fear is to be prepared. The University Police Department has some tips on how to handle an active intruder: The UPD has multiple security measures in place to protect students from — and hopefully prevent — an incident with security cameras, the USF Safe app, officers and emergency phones around campus.

“A big aspect for us is the use of security cameras to manage the incident,” UPD Police Chief David Hendry said. “We also have a fully operational emergency operations center, which allows us to view cameras, social media is a threat to the campus, UPD wants you to notify them.”

“Reporting the person allows us to investigate and, more often than not, get them help,” Hendry said.

Throughout the year, UPD hosts trainings called CRASE, which stands for Citizens Response to Active Shooter Events, for all faculty and students.

The training teaches students how to protect themselves against a “mass harmer.” However, if you can’t make it to the training, or if you prefer to do it alone, the UPD website has a 45-minute training video with various documents to help you.

“We prescribe to the ‘run, hide, fight’ curriculum. So run if you can, hide if need be, and the last resort would be to defend yourself.” Emergency Management Coordinator James Weed said.

Following this curriculum, the best thing you can do in the event of a “mass harmer” is run. You should do whatever you can to safely get away from the situation. If you cannot safely get away, your next move should be to hide in place.

Worst case scenario, you fight the intruder, although UPD does not recommend taking that risk.

“Absolutely the last resort would be to defend yourself somehow, which we do not recommend, but we do recommend,” Weed said.

For more information, including documents and training videos on how to prepare and what to do, go to the UPD website under the “armed intruder” section at https://www.usfsp.edu/university-police-department/armed-intruder/.

Davis Hall remodel on the horizon

By Seth Payan
Contributor

Last April, plans to remodel the second floor of Lowell E. Davis Memorial Hall first began. The project blueprints were planned to be completed around fall of 2018, but consolidation threw a wrench in the plans.

Edward Lewis, USF St. Petersburg’s construction project manager, then said that the blueprints would be available this fall. But the design has yet to be started.

“We had to follow a strict state selection process to determine who would be the chosen development partner to work with us on this project,” Lewis said. “This did add some time to the design process.

“At present, we are about to start the process of negotiating with a design and building developer,” he said. “Once they are under contract, design will start, which we anticipate having by the end of the year.”

“Construction is likely to start in January and conclude by the fall semester of 2020.”

Some concerns included the displacement of ongoing classrooms, as well as what the overall plan was going to include as far as new classrooms, labs and offices.

“The plan is to completely demolish and clear the second floor before building new classrooms and the required number of staff and faculty offices,” Lewis said.

“We want to make sure that we improve the experience for all, using the new space by incorporating a student lounge and hangout space.”

Haley Cocks, the senior academic program specialist in the Registrar’s Office, has been in charge of “optimizing” the classroom space for courses that would normally be held in Davis Hall during construction.

“Surprisingly, we did end up having enough empty classrooms in other buildings, like LPH, STG and Coquina, to schedule the courses in for next year,” Cocks said.

“Rooms that contained special equipment or computers have also been accounted for. Optimization hasn’t happened yet, as it takes place on September 16, but I am very sure that we will have enough space for everything.”