Wary retirees warn against return to the bad old days

By Jeffrey Waitkevich

T rattling a resolution for revolution, a group of the university’s retired faculty and staff is standing up against the big shots.

The Retired Faculty and Staff Association unanimously adopted a resolution (see pg. 2 for full resolution) opposing consolidated accreditation Tuesday to let legislators and USF System President Judy Genshaft know that they will not sit back quietly and let USF St. Petersburg return to its roots as a neglected regional campus. The organization has about a hundred members, some of whom have been with the university since its earliest years.

“I think we all have horror stories of what it used to be like,” said longtime librarian Jackie Shevemaker, one of 18 new members on the group’s board of directors.

Those horror stories have led to widespread distrust of administrators on the Tampa campus.

Herman Brannes, who spent many years as the director of the Center. Another was placed in front door of the Student Life. It was on prominent display. One was taped to the USFSP DIGITAL ARCHIVE | THE CROW’S NEST

J.M. "Sudsy" Tschiderer speaks at the USF St. Petersburg 50th Anniversary Event.

By Whitney Elfstrom

A s several points around campus last week, The Crow’s Nest front page bearing the banner headline “Genshafted again!” was on prominent display.

One was taped to the front door of the Student Life Center. Another was placed in the mouth of Cheryl the Bull on Harborwalk.

It was unclear who was behind it, but the message seemed clear: Some USF St. Petersburg students aren’t happy about House Bill 423, the proposed legislation that would strip the university of its separate accreditation, and they’re not going down without a fight.

One of them is Mariah McQueen, a junior marketing major from Sarasota.

“Over the past 10 years, we kind of began to gain a different representation and finally became known as more than a satellite campus from (USF) Tampa,” she said.

To create a Facebook page titled “Students and Alumni Against HB 423” and circulate a petition (see on pg.5) encouraging the community to oppose the proposed legislation.

“Employees working for this institution are restricted as to what they can say or do regarding their opinions of the bill,” she said. “That’s why I think it’s important that students are the ones to speak out because it depends on us to make a change.”

She is urging students and alumni to research the effects of the bill to ensure that they are well-versed and, above all else, to make sure USF St. Petersburg doesn’t lose its independence.

As of late Sunday, 63 people had signed the petition, some with pointed comments about the importance of a separate identity.

While concern and confusion grew among students, the university’s interim regional chancellor sought to assure them that they have no cause to worry.

Students bristle while chancellor sees positives

Interim Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock (left) with Rep. Chris Sprowls (center), USF System President Judy Genshaft and USFSP Student Body President David Thompson.

“When she learned that USFSP might lose its separate accreditation, McQueen said, she reacted with shock, confusion and anger. She knew that she needed to do something to let people know that HB 423 wasn’t OK. Her response?

“My response? I don’t think (St. Petersburg) students will be harmed in any way” if the bill becomes law, Martin Tadlock told The Crow’s Nest in an interview Friday.

Tadlock, who said again that he is not taking a position

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RESOLUTION OPPOSING UNIFYING USF CAMPUSES FOR ACCREDITATION

WHEREAS the USF St. Petersburg Retired Faculty/Staff Association (RFSA) was founded and exists today to provide for the shared and mutual interests of retired faculty, administrators and support staff across all academic Colleges, Support Divisions and Departments and,

WHEREAS members represent the founding faculty and staff, including the founding campus Dean, and scores of dedicated faculty and staff since then who all share in the aspirations of initial and successor faculty and staff that USF St. Petersburg seek and achieve the highest academic recognition possible within Florida and U.S. colleges and universities and,

WHEREAS USF St. Petersburg has through the years grown stronger each year and in recent years achieved major acclaim for excellence as demonstrated by SACS accreditation for the campus as well as accreditation for its separate Colleges of Education, Business and several departments including the Department of Digital Journalism and Media Studies, an accreditation achieved even prior to its sister department on the Tampa Campus and,

WHEREAS the student body served by the campus has continued to evolve from a majority part time enrollment to the current student cohort of many more students comprised of full-time age typical college students, many of whom live in recently constructed residence halls on the campus, with additional residence hall construction on the horizon, and contributing to the resurgence and vibrancy of the downtown St. Petersburg community and,

WHEREAS faculty have been recruited to USF St. Petersburg whose interests include both teaching and research, and new faculty may in the future be reluctant to risk their career at USF St. Petersburg if decisions such as promotion and tenure as vested in distant administration office on the Tampa Campus where academic performance is significantly less visible and priorities for teaching and research may vary and,

WHEREAS USF St. Petersburg Campus has flourished and presents a bright future under current separate accreditation and administrative and budget independence, the future of that prospect will be threatened with the proposed single accreditation under the Tampa Campus with resultant administrative centralization and desire to move all campus personnel.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The USF St. Petersburg Retired Faculty/Staff adamently opposes the proposed unification of USF St. Petersburg under a singular Tampa One-Campus Accreditation. It is the strong belief of the RFSA that the best interests of USF St. Petersburg, its faculty, staff and students and the St. Petersburg and Pinellas County communities that the current separate accreditation with all the associated benefits is the best path forward. We also believe that additional independence in other aspects of the continuing relationship should be explored such as for example, appointment of a local independent USFSP Board.

2. If the composition and degree time requirements and other aspects of the USFSP Student Body present an issue for USF Tampa, the answer would suggest that the criteria of the state governance body setting the parameters for Tampa achieving the desired outcome is where efforts should be directed.

Many of our group feel that with the proposed accreditation unification legislative proposal, stagnation or benign neglect will again prevail for USF St. Petersburg as we feel happened from the Campus founding in 1965 until Pinellas Senator Don Sullivan proposed legislation in 2001 to separate USFSP from USF and the associated requirement for a separate USFSP budget and accreditation. These actions caused USFSP to dramatically increase its potential in faculty recruitment, student enrollment and faculty expansion and budget freedom. We feel that is almost certain that the proposed action, if it becomes law, will derail the continued flourishing of USFSP.

Accelerate your spring break with Ex Labs

2018 EXLABS
Alternative Spring Break 2018 | MAR. 12-16

By Delaney Brown
delaneybrown@mail.usf.edu

Not all learning happens in the classroom. Sometimes it happens in an accelerator lab.

Ex Labs is a business boot camp that acts as an alternative spring break program designed to give students a head start in the tech world. It introduces students of all majors to the trends and strategies used in the tech industry through a series of workshops with program partner Tech Data.

The Ex Labs program requires participation in 10 events, five of which fall over spring break 2018. The program aims to teach students about the tech trends and strengths from their specific majors into a successful career in the technology industry. It’s like “The Apprentice” meets a self-help class.

Over five days, participants learn the ins and outs of the technology market, hone their resumes and job search techniques, network and practice their presentation skills before presenting a business plan to a panel of judges.

The winning team will receive a specialized training package from Cisco worth $2,300.

“This is an incredible and powerful experience, so much so that USFSP is funding the events (one over spring break and one in June) fully, so students can participate at no cost,” said Professor Kathleen Gibson-Doe.

Applications for the program are due by midnight on Feb. 5. Applicants must be current USF St. Petersburg students; sophomore, junior or senior standing is preferred. A maximum of 30 students will be selected to attend.

Ex Labs: March 12-18
Applications due: midnight, Feb. 5
Genshaft’s email to USF leaders

At the University of South Florida, one of our most important guiding principles is our unity. That was true when we were founded in 1956 and is true today. It’s our ability to bring together diverse populations, diverse viewpoints and diverse ideas that makes us stronger. It is true no matter where our students take their courses – be it in St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee, Tampa or around the world.

A bill currently moving through the Florida Legislature could enhance that unity by bringing all three of our institutions together under one accreditation umbrella which is more in line with others in the Florida state university system. This is an important issue that many members of the USF community feel strongly about on both sides.

We have begun a series of community conversations about what might happen should this legislation become law and how we will manage that process. These conversations are being led by Trustees Stephanie Goforth and Byron Shin, the leaders of our Campus Boards at USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee, respectively, and senior staff within the USF system. It is still early, but we believe there is the potential for significant benefits to our students. Benefits like enhancing the reputation of the entire USF system and having all students graduate from a pre-eminent research university, or helping students graduate faster and with less debt by providing a wider variety of course options and majors including those in health care and engineering. Or the benefits of graduate research and Ph.D. opportunities in Tampa, St Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee. Through these community conversations we believe even more benefits to our students and the Tampa Bay area will emerge as we begin to develop a vision for the future.

Informed by diverse members of the community, by our students, faculty and staff, as well as key members of the Florida Legislature, we will examine the opportunities and challenges of a unified system and, together, we will unite behind a common vision. A vision to make a difference in this world.

Thank you for your support and Go Bulls!

Rep. Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor, is the main proponent of legislation that would abolish USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee’s separate accreditation.

>> SEE LETTER TO THE EDITOR on P5
Every students’ lounge, one student’s canvas

By Anna Bryson
annabryson@mail.usf.edu

S enior graphic design major Gaby Mena created the graphics showcased on the walls of The Edge, USF St. Petersburg’s $1.3 million renovation of the old Coquina Club.

Mena’s design is energizing and modern, with bright blue and green arrows against a pristine white background.

“I’m happy that USFSP had some colors other than green and gold I could work with just to breathe a little bit of life into this space — make it look fun and contemporary,” Mena said.

Mena earned this opportunity through an internship at BFrank Studio, an architecture studio in Tampa. Working with the university’s established brand, Mena arranged different elements of the brand in a way that she felt could send a message to students.

“One of the main messages I want to send is that design should be unique and it should be fun to look at,” Mena said. “I want people to feel energized, inspired by it.”

Students have voiced enthusiasm about The Edge since its opening in August, calling it “bright,” “inviting,” and “modern.”

After graduation, Mena hopes to land an internship at Cartoon Network and eventually find a design career that feels like home.

“When I was applying for internships, I thought of this project. And I was able to do this project. This is something that I’m so happy with.”

This just happens to be a product of that.

“Students have voiced enthusiasm about The Edge since its opening in August, calling it “bright,” “inviting,” and “modern.”

By Anna Bryson

Join USFSP Education Abroad this summer! * Application deadlines vary by program Scholarships Available Apply Online: www.usfsp.edu/abroad

*programs to be finalized
How a small newspaper helped a Pulitzer Prize-winning alumnus do ‘big things in small places’

By Timothy Fanning
Contributor

A
fter Eric Eyre graduated from USF St. Petersburg with a master’s degree in mass communication, he took a job at a newspaper in Charleston, West Virginia, and quickly found it to be a place where he could do “big things in small places.”

At the Charleston Gazette-Mail, a daily with a circulation of 37,000, Eyre, 52, balanced investigative projects with his daily work as a statehouse reporter.

In 2016, he exposed the flood of opioids flowing into depressed West Virginia counties with the highest overdose death rates in the country. That effort won him the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting.

Unlike the New York Times and Washington Post, the Gazette-Mail cannot free up reporters for months at a time to pursue promising leads. He estimates he writes more than 250 stories per year and still covers the night cops beat once a month.

“We don’t have a data desk, we don’t have an investigative team,” Eyre told an audience of nearly 50 in the Harbor Hall Community Room on Thursday. “We break, we scoot, we hide from the bosses to avoid lousy assignments. We grimace when we pitch a blockbuster story to our editor and get the response, ‘Can I have that for Sunday?’”

Eyre spent the day on camera speaking to classes and chatting with students about work in journalism.

“To Eyre, big projects are “just like gravy” and come about as a result of years grinding it out as a beat reporter doing investigative projects and the like.”

For years he toiled in the trenches, scraping with the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting.

In Eyre’s newly 20 years at the paper, he’s covered education, health, business and state government and legislature, all of which, he says, prepared him for the most important story of his career.

In a series of articles that covered some three years of work, Eyre disclosed that drug wholesalers unloaded 780 million hydrocodone and oxycodone pills into the state over a six-year period, during which 1,728 West Virginians fatally overdosed on the medications.

A native of Broad Ax, Pa., Eyre earned bachelor’s degrees from Loyola University in New Orleans and received a master’s degree in 1998 from USF St. Petersburg while on a Poynter Fund Fellowship.

There, he quickly impressed his professors with his writing abilities and interest in telling stories that impact ordinary people.

“The program was a great learning ground for me,” Eyre said. “The three former journalists-turned-professors had us out of the classroom and on the ground covering local politics.”

A husband and a father, Eyre spends his spare time collecting investigative reporting books and portable manual typewriters, much to the chagrin of his wife, who doesn’t like “musty and old” eight typewriters showing up at her house.”

For some, winning the Pulitzer Prize can be life-altering, and many move on to more prestigious newspapers. Not Eyre, who said the newspaper gives him a lot of freedom to do in-depth investigative work.

The Gazette-Mail, like a lot of small, local newspapers, has a hard time keeping young journalists.

“They tend to stay only a year or two. His advice to young reporters is to stick around smaller newspapers, just for a little bit, because it’s hard to drop in and out and have much of an impact.”

“You have to pay your dues before you get the good stuff,” he said. “After a year, your stories get better and your sources begin to trust you.”

While I wear many hats on this campus, I am advocating against this statute as a student and as a student, I am confident that if we use the negative energy we have toward this bill to demonstrate action for something we believe in, this bill will not pass.

Our administration is trying its best to answer any questions students and staff are regarding the bill, but it is my belief that the information given is sugar-coated to relieve anger and prevent chaos.

This is expected of any kind of leadership in this kind of situation, so I encourage students to do their own research and form their own opinions based on unbiased sources.

While there are several reasons I personally oppose the consolidation, I will summarize my stance.

Our institution has grown too much to have our progress reversed. As mentioned in the recent Crow’s Nest article “Surprise move leaves campus frustrated, fuming,” our separate accreditation is an “important distinction that helped launch a decade of growth in enrollment, fundraising and prestige.”

USF St. Petersburg provides too many unique opportunities to be pushed back to a time when we were just ‘another USF campus.’ There is, without a doubt, too much of a difference between our campuses to conceal our spotlight with consolidation.

In order to make a difference against the powerful hierarchy supporting this bill, we need students to speak up now.

I ask that you highlight the petition I started that opposes the statute consolidating our accreditation. One of the purposes of a student-run newspaper is to allow students to enter a dialogue with participants rather than spectators, and this petition will accomplish that. This petition gives students a chance to voice their concerns when no one asked for our opinions.

We students pour too much money from our empty pockets into this institution to not have any input.

Let’s continue USF St. Petersburg’s legacy.

Respectfully,
A proud USFSP student

Letter to the editor: I will be separately accredited

By Mariah McQueen
Junior Marketing Major
Contributor

Some people think that the controversial bill containing language that removes all separate accreditation for USF St. Petersburg’s separate accreditation is a foregone conclusion.

But I refuse to do nothing while the bill flies over our heads.

House Bill 423 contains an expansion of Bright Futures funding which I fully support, and in fact, lobbied for in Tallahassee back in early November. What I fully oppose in HB 423 is statute 1004.335, which would consolidate the three USF system campuses’ accreditation to diminish our earned identity.

I am a strong believer in the difference that citizen and student advocacy can make. We need as many students as possible to speak up.

Employees working for the university are restricted as to what they can say or do about this bill because it can jeopardize their jobs. This is why it is even more important that we, the students, speak out.

While I wear many hats on this campus, I am advocating against this statute as a student and as a student, I am confident that if we use the negative energy we have toward this bill to demonstrate action for something we believe in, this bill will not pass.

Our administration is trying its best to answer any questions students and staff are regarding the bill, but it is my belief that the information given is sugar-coated to relieve anger and prevent chaos.

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MARIAH MCQUEEN | THE CROW’S NEST

Students started a petition against HB 423.
Expletives from the White House, the least of our worries

By Luke Cross
Junior Political Science Major
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"Shithole." Media outlets spent an entire weekend covering the presidential buzzword as soon as it spilled from President Donald Trump’s lips during a meeting with lawmakers.

Specifically, the president referred to Africa, saying “why do we want all these people from ‘shithole countries’ coming here?”

As is the trend with political coverage, opinions were harshly divided.

Liberal media outlets attacked the president for his blatantly offensive remarks, while Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni praised Trump for speaking to Africans “frankly.”

The ripples of his statement reach so far that a South African representative urged his peers to boycott Trump’s address at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Friday.

Don’t buy into the smokescreen of the topic at Davos, I feel it’s important that I also speak frankly on the president’s remark. Trump keeping his own foot in his mouth is the least worrying part of this controversy.

Discrimination from the Oval Office is nothing new at this point. Selective travel bans, the condemnation of “bad hombres” and mocking a disabled reporter helped solidify Trump’s legacy of unabashed childishness.

This isn’t an excuse for his previous actions, but an attempt to put the shithole controversy in context.

There is precedent to be found in Trump’s moments of truth, but it isn’t the expletive that garnered so much coverage. Instead, I want to focus on the beginning of the statement in question.

"Why?"

Such a simple interrogative phrase carries incredible weight.

The world became so lost in the thicket of racial undertones and their implication in foreign relations that we suffered tunnel vision. Obsessive focus on the statement’s buzzword resulted in the leader of the free world going unchallenged in his criticism of immigration.

Typically, when a president declares a position on any topic by taking a stance, tidal waves of resistance and support follow in its wake. This is critical, as the casual conversations about politics in our lives become the foundation on which inform legislation.

When that position is left to unattended to, there is no mediation.

One of democracy’s checks and balances is sacrificed, so we can instead gossip about how the commander-in-chief said a bad word.

President is a valuable component in our political system. Its use is most frequent in legal arbitration, where a court uses previous decisions to influence outcomes of future cases. The concept’s reach, however, extends far beyond the courtroom.

Daily life is influenced by the political environment in ways that often go unnoticed. Recent presidential memes such as “covfefe” and “build a wall” may be more explicitly ingrained in our dialogue, but the more mundane statements slowly pile up.

Allowing elected officials to make unchallenged claims defeats the purpose of election, and allows said officials to rule as they wish. When we live under a government that openly shuns globalism, globalist ideals aren’t enforced.

Whether you enforce nationalist policy is irrelevant, what matters is that your country is irrelevant when its focused on cursing instead of consequential political opinions.

The entirety of Trump’s presidential campaign relied on an overwhelming amount of unsavory soundbites.

While the email scandal sunk Hillary’s campaign, Trump survived through a number of scandals because none held a headline long enough to do damage. This same tactic is presented in the shithole statement.

Even if you support the president, don’t take this bait. Analyze what he has said and what he will say, without distracting yourself with whatever obscenities he may drop. Your opinion matters and it should be heard, not wasted on some cheap diversion.
Heist movie busted for being bad

By Anthony Nolfi

"Den of Thieves" is a ho-hum heist that no burglar would risk his neck to check out.

Directed, co-written and produced by Christian Gudegast, "Den of Thieves" is an action thriller that revolves around loose cannon detective Nick, played by Gerard Butler, and his team of off-the-book police officers on the hunt for skilled robbers led by Ray Merrimen (Pablo Schreiber).

The bulk of the film involves run-ins with Merrimen and his own gaggle of thieves.

One thief, Donnie (O'Shea Jackson Jr.), is stuck between the two sides. Nick exploits this, making Donnie the cops’ "inside guy." Add an uncomfortably realistic side plot of Nick’s wife believing that he’s cheating on her, and you’ve got the makings of a film rife with conflict.

Not all of it is for the best.

The lack of motivation and characterization drags this entire movie down. Aside from an unusually childish performance out of Butler, who is difficult to relate or empathize with given his crude actions and mentality, all of the actors portraying the police are one dimensional and act as ballroom noise during shootouts.

The same could be said for Merrimen and his crew with just a hint of a dynamic early on.

There isn’t any sense of motivation behind the actions of the robbers outside of their greed and their ambition to be a few of their more heroic cuts back to his situation. It’s hard to think back to their scenes positively, however, because of how juvenile and ridiculous Butler’s character comes off. He’s featured throughout, but just acts like a cocky, no-holds-bar, crooked man the whole time, making fans of some of his more heroic portrayals like King Leonidas in "300" shake their heads in disappointment. The film cuts back to his situation with his wife multiple times throughout, but just acts like a cocky, no-holds-bar, crooked man the whole time, making fans of some of his more heroic portrayals like King Leonidas in "300" shake their heads in disappointment. The film cuts back to his situation with his wife multiple times throughout, but just acts like a cocky, no-holds-bar, crooked man the whole time, making fans of some of his more heroic portrayals like King Leonidas in "300" shake their heads in disappointment. The film cuts back to his situation with his wife multiple times throughout, but just acts like a cocky, no-holds-bar, crooked man the whole time, making fans of some of his more heroic portrayals like King Leonidas in "300" shake their heads in disappointment. The film cuts back to his situation with his wife multiple times throughout, but just acts like a cocky, no-holds-bar, crooked man the whole time, making fans of some of his more heroic portrayals like King Leonidas in "300" shake their heads in disappointment. The film cuts back to his situation with his wife multiple times throughout, but just acts like a cocky, no-holds-bar, crooked man the whole time, making fans of some of his more heroic portrayals like King Leonidas in "300" shake their heads in disappointment. The film cuts back to his situation with his wife multiple times throughout, but just acts like a cocky, no-holds-bar, crooked man the whole time, making fans of some of his more heroic portrayals like King Leonidas in "300" shake their heads in disappointment. The film cuts back to his situation with his wife multiple times throughout, but just acts like a cocky, no-holds-bar, crooked man the whole time, making fans of some of his more heroic portrayals like King Leonidas in "300" shake their heads in disappointment. The film cuts back to his situation with his wife multiple times throughout, but just acts like a cocky, no-holds-bar, crooked man the whole time, making fans of some of his more heroic portrayals like King Leonidas in "300" shake their heads in disappointment. The film cuts back to his situation with his wife multiple times throughout, but just acts like a cocky, no-holds-bar, crooked man the whole time, making fans of some of his more heroic portrayals like King Leonidas in "300" shake their heads in disappointment. The film cuts back to his situation with his wife multiple times throughout, but just acts like a cocky, no-holds-bar, crooked man the whole time, making fans of some of his more heroic portrayals like King Leonidas in "300" shake their heads in disappointment. The film cuts back to his situation with his wife multiple times throughout, but just acts like a cocky, no-holds-bar, crooked man the whole time, making fans of some of his more heroic portrayals like King Leonidas in "300" shake their heads in disappointment. The film cuts back to his situation with his wife multiple times throughout, but just acts like a cocky, no-holds-bar, crooked man the whole time, making fans of some of his more heroic portrayals like King Leonidas in "300" shake their heads in disappointment. The film cuts back to his situation with his wife multiple times throughout, but just acts like a cocky, no-holds-bar, crooked man the whole time, making fans of some of his more heroic portrayals like King Leonidas in "300" shake their heads in disappointment. The film cuts back to his situation with his wife multiple times throughout, but just acts like a cocky, no-holds-bar, crooked man the whole time, making fans of some of his more heroic portrayals like King Leonidas in "300" shake their heads in disappointment. The film cuts back to his situation with his wife multiple times throughout, but just acts like a cocky, no-holds-bar, crooked man the whole time, making fans of some of his more heroic portrayals like King Leonidas in "300" shake their heads in disappointment.

Nick’s paternal interactions with his wife are made all the more uncomfortable by the scene where he funnels her credit card money, making her feel like a cash cow.

Donnie’s character sums up “Den of Thieves” well: dynamic motivation, or any special excitement to be had. The opening showed promise – Donnie’s character actually feels like a human being, and there are a few chuckles to be had. It’s historical actually, but because one of the few good scenes is just one joke that’s unrelated to the rest of the story, Gudegast really should ask himself if he’s writing a heist movie correctly.

Rating: 2 out of 5 Stars

What to do this week: Jan. 29-Feb. 4

By Ashley Campbell

Monday

Do you have an interest in the arts, or are you an artist looking to get inspired? Check out The Artists of ArtLounge! The event is free and is going on until Feb. 3. Come check out Eighteen local emerging and emerging artists who will present recent artwork including drawings, encaustics, glass, jewelry, mixed media, paintings, photography and sculptures. These pieces can be viewed from 10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Central Avenue.

Tuesday

The Third Annual State of the St. Petersburg Economy Presentation will be held in the University Student Center from 3 to 6 p.m. Mayor Rick Kriseman will be presenting St. Petersburg’s economic indicators. The talk is free to attend and will go over key developments, prosperity indicators, and how the city drives economic competitiveness.

Wednesday

Don’t forget today is the day that the AlcoholEdu course is due for the spring. Today is also one of USF St. Petersburg’s Lunch and Learns hosted through the Compass First-Year Experience. This lunch is free to attend for both students and staff from noon to 1 p.m. in COQ 101. Register through Canvas to reserve your spot!

Thursday

Do you want a free trip to the Sunken Gardens? Well USF St. Petersburg can make this possible for you. From 2 until 4 p.m. Compass will be providing free transportation and tickets to the Sunken Gardens’ 100-year-old botanical paradise. Spaces are limited so be sure to register and reserve your spot through Petescyn.

Friday

Need volunteer hours, or just love giving back to the community? There is a volunteer opportunity in the USF ballroom from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Also happening today is a performance of the Magic Flute at the Palladium Theater. Come to the Palladium to hear Mozart’s final fantastic opera by the St. Petersburg Opera Company. The full cast is made up of outstanding members of the opera community, both locally and nationally.

Saturday

Are you a wine enthusiast? Would you enjoy to be seduced at Wine Weekend at the Museum of Fine Arts? This fundraising event theme "be seduced" will relive the days of Louis XV and the balls of Versailles. This elegant event includes a wine pairing dinner, a wine auction, and Maison Louis Latour will be their guest Vinter offering Grand Cru and Premier Cru wines. The first event starts at 2 p.m. and the last event starts at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday

USF St. Petersburg Campus Recreation will be hosting a Super Bowl party and Madden Tournament in The Edge from 3 to 11 p.m. The Super Bowl LII will be displayed on multiple screens paired with free food, drinks, games, prizes, and giveaways! The PS4 Madden Tournament will start at 4 p.m. and you must have a Student ID to participate.
St. Petersburg Women’s March turns out in full force

By Sara M. McDonald
Contributor

Demonstrators of all genders, colors, creeds and ages gathered together on Sunday Jan. 21 in downtown St. Petersburg to demand changes in a country torn by injustice and inequality.

There was a sea of signs, a wall where victims could write down their stories, a chalk walk that begged for people to “love one another” and inspire others to not just march or tweet, but to act.

“Washington may shut down but we must keep moving,” the protesters said.

Casey Bauer, President of the University of Tampa’s College Democrats, said he marched because he believed that “our culture and country needs to change. It’s 2018: sexual harassment, assault and hate should not be permissible and passed off as ‘locker room talk’.”

He hopes this march will “get people excited about voting and bring a tidal wave of elected women to office.

“Maybe our government is so dysfunctional because its almost completely run by men. I don’t understand how women make up 53 percent of the electorate, yet they only represent 22 percent in Congress/Senate. That needs to change.”

There are many common misconceptions about feminism, the women’s marches and the movements attached.

“The march is not what caused the federal government to shut down. Being in feminism and the ideas of this march do not mean you hate men,” said Rebecca Guthrie. “It just means you believe in a tomorrow where everyone is equal and have a right to their lives and most importantly their bodies.

“This march is about movement, DACA dreamers, politicians and activists. This was a space for progressive people to gather, unite and inspire others to not just march or tweet, but to act.

“St. Petersburg Women’s March to demand justice and inequality. Changes in a country torn by a five-time attendee of the Women’s March on Fifth Street as they made their way to Central Ave and on to the rally at Williams Park.

The marchers gathered to empower. Joy Kruella, a USF St. Petersburg psychology student, wrote down her stories, a woman to “not be the victim.”

“I think it’s important to be here today, because as a woman it is up to us to make a difference and to not blame other people,” said Kruella. “We need to just stand up. If we act like victims we will be victims and we are much stronger than that.”

All ages were welcome at the march.

There were speakers and tents from local universities, supporters of the MeToo movement, and戴安娜 encouraged women to stand together.

“We need to just stand up. If we act like victims we will be victims and we are much stronger than that.”

“The march aimed to influence elections, equality.” Guthrie said.

Anna Gasztold, 21, drove from Pasco County to attend the event.

Gasparilla invades the streets gain

By Dylan Hart
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An especially crowded Tampa, already filled to the brim with excited hockey fans downtown for the NHL All-Star event, invited festival-goers from far and wide for this year’s 2018 Gasparilla Pirate Festival.

Gasparilla is the biggest annual festival in the Tampa Bay area, with the majority of events held in January each year. Attendees are encouraged to dress as pirates in celebration of the fictional 18th century pirate José Gaspar, who, in the legend, operated in the Gulf of Mexico near Tampa Bay.

The festival’s main event is the parade, which incorporates both boats flowing into the bay toward downtown Tampa and trucks heading downtown from the south via Bayshore Boulevard, with pirate themed floats being in particular abundance. The parade took place on Jan. 27, with smaller Gasparilla events to come through March.

“I come because it’s a blast! I like having a good time,” said Kristie Laier, a five-time attendee of the event. “I love dressing up like a pirate. Watching all the boats come into the bay in a swarm, it’s fantastic.”

Beard necklaces, in addition to other small souvenirs, are often thrown from the floats into the crowd, following a long-standing Gasparilla tradition. Attendees stack the bead necklaces around their necks and wear them throughout the festival proudly.

Brendon Porter, a sophomore at USF St. Petersburg, enjoyed the festival experience, saying, “It was a great time. I loved the floats and all the diverse personalities and cultures mixing together.”

A number of the floats also included cannons, which fired loud blanks as attendees looked on.

USF Tampa sophomore, Ruthy Smith, had never been before. “I like when they threw all the beads in the parade,” she said.

The parade also included cheerleaders and bands from various high schools and colleges around the Tampa Bay area, as well as several floats from the military. Notably, a group of horses kicked off the parade.

Lakeland local Akira Matsuo, a first-time attendee, noted what she liked about the festival: “It’s the mix of excitement and the beads. The beads are what get people into the parade.”

Cameron Ginex, a freshman environmental science student at USF St. Petersburg, added that “it’s something you should experience at least once in your life.”