

Dead body found on campus

By Leda Alvim
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

At 9:15 a.m. on Jan. 29, a dead body was found near the crosswalk at USF Bull Run Drive and Fowler Avenue adjacent to Pizzo Elementary, University Police (UP) said.

The person died from natural causes and has not been identified yet, according to university spokesperson Audrey Clarke.

"This means the death was not at the hands of himself or another," Clarke said.

Clarke said that someone, who was not identified, reported the event to the staff at Pizzo Elementary.

The case has been sent to the Hillsborough Medical Examiner's Office for forensics and analysis. UP is awaiting the results to certify the cause of death.

The Oracle contacted the Medical Examiner's Office Wednesday afternoon, however, they couldn't reveal any information on the individual by the time of publication.

Clarke said UP is actively investigating to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Anyone with any information can contact UP at 813-974-2628.

Driving away with the ultimate Perk



Brian Hattab

SPORTS EDITOR

Anyone who's ever taken a sick day has likely sat on their couch and watched "The Price is Right," likely with jealousy as contestants jump for joy over the prospect of winning a new car.

Not a bad haul for playing a few games of Plinko.

However, this summer, one extremely lucky USF student will take home "A NEW CAR," as you might hear on the long-running CBS show, simply for showing up



USF will award a 2019 Ford EcoSport SE as the grand prize of its Herd Perks Student Rewards app. ORACLE PHOTO/BRIAN HATTAB

to USF Athletics events.

Eat your heart out, Drew Carey.

USF will award a 2019 Ford

EcoSport SE as the grand prize of its Herd Perks Student Rewards app. Students receive points for checking in on the app at USF

games and other events — like live coaches radio shows and other events.

See CAR on PAGE 4

SHS preps students on coronavirus prevention



Alyssa Stewart

EDITOR IN CHIEF

With nearly 6,000 confirmed cases worldwide and a death toll of 132, the coronavirus is increasing at an alarming rate — and so is the concern.

Across the globe, the virus has spread throughout Asia, Australia, parts of Europe, Canada and the U.S.

The first case in the U.S. was

reported Jan. 21 in Washington state, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

There have been five positive cases, 68 negative and 92 that will be determined at a later date. The confirmed cases in the U.S. are in Washington, California, Arizona and Illinois.

Concerns have grown so much that American Airlines, British Airways, Delta, United Airlines among other international flights have announced that they would be limiting the number of flights going to China or stopping operations there completely.

The CDC has been working on tracing the origins of the

outbreak as well as assisting health departments where there have been confirmed cases.

Although most of the world is aware of the outbreak, what exactly is it?

Seetha Lakshmi, USF assistant professor and infectious disease specialist, said the coronavirus comes from a family of viruses.

"It's a part of the same viruses that cause the common cold, so it's not something that's totally unseen before," Lakshmi said.

However, the novel (new) coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is the cause of the outbreak in Wuhan, China, which has been spreading via person-to-person contact.

The CDC said the 2019-

nCoV is a betacoronavirus that originated from bats. First it was suspected that animal-to-person contact was the cause because of large seafood and live animal markets, but most of the patients did not have exposure to these areas. As of now, the spread of the virus is being associated with travel from Wuhan.

Lakshmi said the newer versions of the coronavirus can cause severe human diseases such as sores, but for the most part patients are presenting with upper respiratory symptoms such as a cough, sore throat or nasal congestion.

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VIRUS

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Even though the virus has spread to the U.S., Lakshmi said the risk is still low.

However, the university has a plan in place in case an infectious disease outbreak ever happens on campus or in the Tampa Bay area.

Student Health Services (SHS) Director Joseph Puccio said the department undergoes preparation programs for infectious disease outbreaks as well as preparation protocol every year.

Students can access the Student Health Pandemic Response Plan on the USF website.

"SHS would work very closely with counties or state health officials to make sure we are following all of the same guidelines," Puccio said. "We would focus on how to triage people and what the plans would be if people were testing positive or if we were suspicious," Puccio said.

Even though the virus is low risk, Puccio recommends students still practice good hand hygiene. He said a lot of the preventatives for the virus are similar to the flu or other respiratory infections.

"Make sure you are washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds," Puccio said. "If you go into any medical facility and you have a cough, it's a good idea to wear a mask and if you have a fever, you shouldn't go to school or go to work or be a part of any social activities."

Other tips for prevention include avoiding touching your eyes, nose and face with unwashed hands and using an

alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water isn't available.

People from across the U.S. have been purchasing face masks as a preventative. In fact, face masks are selling out at a rapid pace in cities such as Chicago, Seattle and Chinatown, NY.

Newsweek reported that people are even turning to pharmacies and taking the face masks that are put out for flu season.

Even though it may feel like a protection from the outbreak, Lakshmi said that is not the case.

"If you don't wash your hands, the masks by themselves aren't going to be effective," Lakshmi said. "By the way the mask fits your face, anything can still go into it."

Lakshmi said there are still uncertainties about the virus that are of concern, but will later be discovered with time.

"It's an ongoing situation so we have to see if it mutates," Lakshmi said. "It uses the same receptors to bind that are similar to sores. That's why the concern is if it will become more severe as it adapts to its host. That's why the CDC often checks to see if the virus has changed after it's been isolated."

Lakshmi said she recommends that people who have visited China recently and are experiencing respiratory symptoms contact their health care providers as soon as possible to be safe.

"The health care providers can screen them or over the phone the person would have to say that they have been in China and there was a concern for exposure so that they can be routed properly to the correct channels."

USF-NAACP remembers Kobe Bryant



The vigil will include an opening prayer, performances, a candlelight service and a moment of silence in the MLK Plaza. **SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE**

By Devin Perry
CORRESPONDENT

In commemoration of the life of famous basketball player Kobe Bryant and the lives of eight other victims of a helicopter crash, the USF chapter of the NAACP is holding a candlelight vigil at 8 p.m. this Thursday at the Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Plaza.

The retired Laker and four-time MVP was killed when the helicopter him, his daughter Gianna Bryant and another family were traveling in crashed into the hills above Calabasas, California last Sunday.

The vigil will begin with an opening prayer from President of the USF-NAACP Martaz'Shia Gibbs and Director of Finance Staverline Julien, leading into remarks on the

nine people who lost their lives.

"I think for us as a community, we need to unify and realize that life is short," Gibbs said. "With this vigil, we're celebrating an amazing life... and bringing our African American community together."

Aliciya Smith, Denzel Lee and Lola Adeagbo from the organization will be leading songs such as "Hard To Say Goodbye" by Boyz II Men.

Candlelit ceremonies around the MLK plaza, prayers and a moment of silence will bring the event to a close.

"We want to bring the African American community together and share with them the resources on campus that can help them," Gibbs said. "We want to help African American students realize that there is support out there. There

are people that love them and care about them. It's the biggest reason why NAACP is doing this."

The NAACP also hopes to bring awareness to the revival of the organization at USF, which hasn't been active since early 2017.

"The NAACP stands for action and for change, and the way I take that is, like, it's a call to action," Gibbs said. "When something happens, you go down, have a meeting, work things out and then put it into action."

The event is expected to last 30 minutes to an hour, and the expected turnout is from 20-100 people.

"There's a lot of significance [to the event]. About 20 to 25 black organizations have been personally invited," Gibbs said.

VIENS

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to mean something, right?

The Canadians likely want to see that their players can hack it at a high level. That makes logical sense, sure, but four players on the current roster are collegiate athletes — Jayde Riviere with Michigan, Gabrielle Carle with FSU, Jessie Fleming with UCLA and Deanne Rose with UF.

Surely Canada saw the first-round matchup between USF and UF in the 2019 NCAA tournament. And surely Canada saw Viens' hat trick in the 4-2 win that boosted the Bulls to the next round.

Or were they too busy looking for Rose's sole goal?

At the end of the day, Viens'



Evelyne Viens, yet again, is not on Canada's roster as it picks up international play. But her time will come. ORACLE PHOTO/BRIAN HATTAB

omission on Canada's roster makes some sense — it's potentially one last shot for

Sinclair, so make it count. Not mixing it up and sticking to the tried and tested is a logical route

for Canada.

But one can't help but be puzzled.

CAR

Continued from PAGE 1

If this large of a grand prize seems like a new thing, that's because it is. Prior to this year, the app, which has been for around four years, was more of an afterthought.

"It wasn't something where it was extremely engaging," USF Athletics Director of Marketing Dustin Schumacher said. "The prizes would be a pair of sunglasses or a hat, things like that. It was more of an afterthought marketing piece.

"So when we came in, we're like, 'Hey, we have this cool tool to impact the students directly. It's something that we can hopefully get some more engagement. What's some of the things that we think would drive student interest?'"

The car will be awarded by taking the top 25 attendees at the end of the year and putting them in a random drawing.

"That way, we're not just assigning, 'Oh, you've been to every game' — which we love," Schumacher said. "That way we're not disheartening to any

other fans that may feel like it's a little too difficult to earn a car. They all have a chance."

In addition to having the app revamped in the interest of user friendliness, Schumacher and his staff reached out to USF Athletics' corporate partners to see what they could come up with to make the app more rewarding.

While the EcoSport — which the winning student will have to cover tax, title, registration and other usual fees associated with purchasing a car — is the ultimate grand prize for the entire academic year, there are other large prizes as well, all thanks to USF's partners.

"We were able to secure the car for the season-long winner," Schumacher said. "We talked to Aramark, who does all the food service on campus — we got a \$500 Dining Dollars prize. We have a spring break trip from Hilton and Delta that's coming up. We have a textbook scholarship from the USF Bookstore.

"A lot of our partners were like, 'Hey, this is really cool. We want to do our part to help,' because I

think everyone sees the potential of this, and this year is the first year of the building block — it's growing. Everyone sees the potential of this becoming a one-stop shop for all USF students of what's going on on campus."

The winner of the fall sports season (soccer, volleyball and football) won the \$500 in Dining Dollars, while the winner of winter sports (primarily basketball) will win the aforementioned spring break trip with Delta and Hilton. The spring sports winner (baseball, softball, golf, track and tennis) will win the \$500 textbook scholarship.

The season prizes will be awarded similarly to the grand prize, though they will only contain the names of the top 10 rather than the top 25. While a student who wins a season prize is not eligible to win another season's prize (for example, the fall winner cannot win the winter prize), they remain eligible for the car.

There are other smaller prizes, like bobbleheads and car flags available on the app, in addition to the big prizes.

Engagement on the app since the new version was released has been trending upward, with about 1,200 or so new users signing up, according to Schumacher.

Attendance for basketball also seems to be showing signs of improvement.

Student attendance for men's basketball is up 63 percent (an average of +191) from last season — and that's before Saturday's War on I-4 matchup with UCF, which will likely increase that. Women's basketball is down 26 percent (an average of -92). However, UConn, which drew 872 students — the most of any opponent — has yet to visit the Yuengling Center this season.

Football was not comparable due to the relative late start USF Athletics had in promoting the revamped app due to its release late in the season.

Not only is student attendance up — at least for men's basketball — but so is appreciation from the students, at least according to random interviews conducted by The Oracle at a recent women's basketball game.

"That's awesome of USF to

If Sinclair, Beckie and Fleming — who incredibly has 69 appearances at age 21 — are Canada's first choices at the line, then what harm will it cause to mix up the second, third and fourth choices?

There's no doubt Viens will make it one day. Just not now. She was so close, but Canada just didn't think she was ready for whatever reason.

Now that Viens is part of a star-studded Sky Blue FC roster that includes two-time World Cup winner Carli Lloyd and the recently signed Mallory Pugh, Viens has a chance to learn from the best and can only get better.

It'll only be a matter of time until Canada comes knocking again.

support students like that," freshman Elizabeth Laburda said. "I like how USF tries to engage students in activities outside of academics."

It might not be the most important thing on the minds when coming to a game for students like sophomore Chris Miklaszewski, but it is on their minds in some way.

"I have used it, but it has not been something that is very prominent in my mind when I come to a game," Miklaszewski said. "But every time I've been to a football game, I check into the app, take care of the points and then go back and enjoy the game."

However, some students didn't know the grand prize was a car, like sophomore Gracie Heath.

"Oh my God," Heath said when informed of the grand prize.

A brand new car just for going to games deserves that kind of response.

No Plinko required.

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Florida Supreme Court should uphold Hillsborough transportation sales tax



Nathaniel Sweet

OPINION EDITOR

In November 2018, Hillsborough County voters approved a referendum creating a one-cent sales tax to pay for improvements in road maintenance, mass transit and pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure. The initiative, which received 57 percent of the vote, was authored and championed by All for Transportation (AFT), a citizen group backed by community advocates and business leaders.

Even as the sales tax is being collected, however, none of the revenue has been spent, entirely because of a frivolous lawsuit from Republican officials.

AFT's landslide victory reflected years of dissatisfaction with transportation in the Tampa Bay area. Stifling traffic congestion is a fact of everyday life. Meager funding for mass transit makes bus routes slow and unreliable. Insufficient infrastructure and poorly designed intersections cause deadly crashes that kill pedestrians and bicyclists.

Funds from the one-cent sales tax would make substantial headway on each of these issues, helping USF students along the way. Underfunding, for instance, forced Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART) to cut



The 13th Circuit Court and the Hillsborough County Commission have already resolved this issue. [WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/W. SLUPECKI](#)

routes running through the USF campus during a restructuring in 2017. New money could see those routes brought back.

Instead, every cent of that money is frozen. Following AFT's approval, Republican Hillsborough County Commissioner Stacy White filed suit against the county, claiming that the referendum violated the Florida Constitution. In the meantime, the county has no access to the sales tax proceeds.

Initially, White had a reasonable case. The AFT initiative included a specific plan for spending the sales tax revenue—a strategy that helped communicate proposed improvements with voters but usurped the constitutional spending authority of the County Commission.

As a result, a judge on the 13th Judicial Circuit struck down the spending plan but upheld the tax. For their part, the Hillsborough County Commission voted to stick to the AFT spending plan, honoring the will of the voters. For all intents and purposes, these moves were common sense solutions, resolving legal issues without usurping democracy.

Now, both White and the GOP-controlled Florida Legislature

are appealing the decision to the Florida Supreme Court, using a game of semantics to demand an all-or-nothing position. If the spending plan is repealed, they argue, the rest of the initiative should be overturned, too. The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on the issue next Wednesday.

This litigation has little to do with the Florida Constitution and everything to do with politics. White and Republican state legislators like Sen. Tom Lee (R-Thonotosassa) campaigned against AFT in the 2018 election, and both White and Lee have expressed an ideological commitment against tax increases and public transportation.

By challenging the sales tax in court, these officials want to overturn a popular transportation agenda for their own political interests.

The Circuit Court and the Hillsborough County Commission have already resolved this issue. The Florida Supreme Court should reject petty partisanship by siding with Hillsborough voters and affirming the previous ruling.

Nathaniel Sweet is a senior studying political science.

New death penalty ruling perpetuates injustice



Jared Sellick

COLUMNIST

On Jan. 23 the Florida Supreme Court ruled that a death sentence can be carried out without a unanimous ruling by the jury. This ruling makes the death penalty more likely to take place.

Florida has executed 44 individuals since 1976, but death sentences have only required a unanimous jury ruling since 2016.

That year, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a sentencing statute passed by the Florida Legislature that would make capital punishment contingent on the judge alone, which violated the defendant's right to a jury. In the process, they outlawed sentencing the death penalty on a split jury.

Even by the standards of the 30 states that currently have capital punishment, this new ruling puts Florida in the most extreme of states in terms of harsh death penalty laws. The only other state that can condemn a person to die with a split jury is Alabama.

The lone dissenting vote on the court came from Justice Jorge Labarga, who wrote in his opinion that he opposed the decision "in the strongest possible terms." Labarga went on to say that this ruling would make Florida "an outlier."

This ruling alone does not

change the law when it comes to unanimous consent of a jury, but it allows the Legislature to amend the existing sentencing laws.

If the state Legislature does decide to implement harsher standards they will be advocating for a known ineffective and often unfairly implemented deterrent.

The Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC) analyzed 30 years of execution data to see if states with the death penalty had fewer crimes. They found that while states in the South account for 80 percent of the U.S.'s executions, they still have some of the country's highest murder rates.

The death penalty is also on occasion applied to individuals who are later found innocent. An average of 3.5 death row convicts are exonerated every year. It is irresponsible to continue a practice that leads to the death of innocent people.

In addition, the death penalty is costly. According to the DPIC, Florida spends \$51 million more per year than they otherwise would if they sentenced all people convicted of first-degree murder to life in prison without parole. This is due to the immense cost of the appeals process.

As a result, for every execution that takes place, the taxpayer spends an average of \$24 million.

There is a growing list of reasons why the death penalty is damaging and ineffective. The Florida Supreme Court's decision could make this harmful practice even more common.

Jared Sellick is a senior studying political science.

Zumba instructor mixes fitness with wellness

By Maddie Moure
CORRESPONDENT

From intense boxing to gentle yoga, USF provides a variety of fitness classes to help students stay in shape. Just as each class has its own unique benefits to offer, the group fitness class Zumba puts its own spin on working out.

USF senior Matthew Reyes is a campus Zumba instructor with a passion for dance and psychology. As a psychology major, Reyes wants to eventually use his degree to help those with mental illnesses identify as many helpful forms of therapy as possible.

When he discovered Zumba, Reyes unearthed what he said was both a great outlet for

creativity and a big stress reliever for him. He said he believes it could potentially serve as a form of therapy for others with stress-related mental health issues.

Zumba is a cardio dance workout that gets you moving to various forms of Indian, Latin American, Caribbean and African music. However, Reyes described the class in simpler terms.

"Zumba is half workout, half dance party," he joked.

The Zumba instructor borrows choreography from Zumba Education Specialists (ZES). Reyes said he learns the accepted choreography and then adds some of his own individual flair to the dances.

"It's all about idiosyncratic style. ... If you're being your

authentic self, then people will notice that and that'll encourage them to be their own authentic self," said Reyes.

Being a Zumba instructor isn't all fun and games, though. It also requires lots of dedication and patience, according to Reyes.

"I have to listen to a song 20 times to get it down, so I choose songs that I like," he said.

Nonetheless, the student enjoys his work and has a fun time engaging with other dancers.

But Reyes sees Zumba as something much deeper than merely exercise. He views it as an opportunity for students to let loose, express themselves and let go of the looming stress of daily student life. That's why Reyes introduces his class to students

as "Music Therapy 101."

Reyes stresses the importance of exercise as a form of stress relief, but also emphasizes that dance in particular can help build confidence.

Students with low self-esteem may find that taking Zumba classes regularly helps them become more self-confident, calm and proud of who they are as an individual.

"It hits every demographic, honestly."

Reyes also loves to instruct Zumba because dance has been a big part of his life since he was young. He grew up around lively family parties with dance and music in South Florida.

"It's how I was raised in Miami," said Reyes about his upbringing. "I'm here as a

representative of where I came from, and I want to share that with the world I live in."

Thus, being able to share both his Latin culture and passion for musical therapy, Reyes is more than content with his job.

"One of the best experiences that I've had over the course of this job is that you don't feel like you're working."

"When people after class come up to you and thank you, that's what makes it worthwhile."

He suggests trying out a Zumba class with friends or even alone. He said there is no wrong way to dance in his class.

"You should be exposed to variety in life, that's what makes it challenging and fun."



Matthew Reyes (lying down in front) sees Zumba as an opportunity for students to let loose, express themselves and let go of the looming stress of daily student life, calling his classes "Music Therapy 101." SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/MATTHEW REYES

Women's Basketball

Big start jumps Bulls to big win over Houston



Nolan Brown

STAFF WRITER

To put Wednesday's game into perspective, consider that the Bulls held Houston to just one basket through the opening 10 minutes.

The score was 18-2 USF. Then the Bulls went on a 14-0 run to round out the first quarter.

USF (13-8, 5-2) carried that momentum and never looked back in its 74-45 win over Houston (10-11, 3-4) at the Yuengling Center.

Momentum was the key to the win — USF never once gave up the lead. In fact, the lowest it got after the first quarter was 14,

thanks to a made 3-pointer by Houston's Dorian Branch to start the second.

After the third quarter, the lead never dropped below 24.

Freshman Elena Tsineke was a standout, leading all scorers with 20, tying her career high.

"We showed some great energy," Tsineke said. "We picked it up from the beginning, so that helps us the most to run, to be offensive and doing good work, both on defense and offense."

The Bulls were also consistent at the free-throw line. They went 12-of-15, with sophomore Sydni Harvey going 5-of-5.

Harvey is averaging 84 percent at the free-throw line this season and has proven to be crucial for USF. Her value comes in being able to shoot from anywhere on the court, according to junior Bethy Mununga.

"She can do whatever," Mununga said. "It's really helpful



Sydni Harvey went 5-of-5 from the free-throw line in Wednesday's win. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/USF ATHLETICS

for us."

Good free-throw shooting comes down to repetition and hard work in the gym, according to Mununga.

"Coach used to say, 'There is no excuse to miss free throws,'" Mununga said. "We're putting in extra work after practice. We're shooting 50 free throws every

day."

There were some downsides to the big win, however. Freshman Kristyna Brabencova went down with a possible ankle injury at the end of the first quarter.

Her official status is unknown, but she was on the bench with her ankle wrapped in the second half.

Another concern of coach Jose Fernandez is turnovers. The Bulls gave the ball away 17 times.

Fernandez expressed his concern with USF's turnovers, which has been a consistent issue all season.

"That's just too many extra possessions for the other team," he said.

Commentary

Viens will get her chance with Canada — eventually



Nolan Brown

STAFF WRITER

Earlier this month, the greatest player in USF women's soccer history was called up to potentially represent her country.

Evelyne Viens was named to the Canadian provisional

roster ahead of the CONCACAF Olympic Qualifying Championship, and for the first time in her career, there was hope of her donning the famous red kit of Les Rouges.

A week and a day later, the dream was cut. And so was Viens. The final squad was announced, and Viens wasn't on it.

It was nothing short of a head-scratcher — she holds the AAC record for most career goals (64), was tied for second in the nation with total goals scored her senior year (25) and was tied for top her

junior year (20).

Why, O' Canada, is Viens not a part of the team?

The short answer is that there isn't any room — the current lineup is saturated with talented forwards.

There are currently six strikers on the final roster, including Janine Beckie and 36-year-old captain Christine Sinclair.

On top of that, each striker has experience with the team. Even Jordyn Huitema, 18-year-old striker for French club Paris Saint-Germain, has 25

appearances.

Canada has taken part in just three Olympic games. In Beijing 2008, Canada finished eighth and in both London 2012 and Brazil 2016 finished with bronze.

This might be the aging Sinclair's final chance to lead Canada to more than bronze. It feels like an all or nothing mentality, and picking Viens ahead of anyone tried and tested just isn't a good tactic.

However, what's really puzzling is just hours before Viens was snubbed by Canada,

she was drafted No. 5 overall in the 2020 National Women's Soccer League Draft by Sky Blue FC.

Viens is now the second-highest Canadian selected in the draft, behind former Duke defender Rebecca Quinn, who was drafted third by the Washington Spirit in 2018.

Viens passed Nkem Ezurike and Beckie, who went eighth in the 2014 and 2016 drafts, respectively.

Going so high in the draft has

See VIENS on PAGE 4