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#YouSaidIt

"(M)ovie production brings money into the area and enables crew and talent to work. (G)lad he came back … it is wonderful when local actors remember to bring dollars back to their home town."

Tampabay.com commenter **Louise Kahle** *on Steve Persall's review, Tampa Bay plays key role in Channing Tatum's strip-tease dramedy 'Magic Mike'*

Rowdies Fans: Twitter user @**gartoz** tweeted this pic to us during the Rowdies' 2-0 win over Minnesota on Saturday, Tampa Bay's third straight.

"Awful and true … he is not the Gov of "all" of us …" **@SShawFL (Sean Shaw)**

Twitter user tweeting his response to John Romano's Sunday column, Gov. Scott putting politics above people in need

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THE METRO REPORT

ST. PETE BEACH

7-year-old boy drowns in gulf

A 7-year-old boy drowned Sunday afternoon in the Gulf of Mexico, authorities said. St. Pete Beach police got a call at 6:14 p.m. about a boy found floating face-down in the water. A bystander performed CPR, according to police, until paramedics arrived and transported the boy to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The boy's mother was at the beach, police said. The boy's name was not released yet while authorities tried to notify his biological father. Police said the boy was from St. Petersburg. Sunday's drowning came four days after a 41-year-old Alabama woman drowned in the waters off St. Pete Beach. Six other people were rescued Wednesday off St. Pete Beach after struggling against strong currents in the wake of Tropical Storm Debby.

MADEIRA BEACH

Woman injured in scooter crash

A 55-year-old woman was in critical condition Sunday evening after crashing her motor scooter into a curb, authorities said. Karen Sue Kennedy of Madeira Beach wasn't wearing her helmet when she crashed on Duhme Road, according to the Florida Highway Patrol. She had been heading north about 1:20 p.m., approaching 48th Avenue N, when she lost control for unknown reasons and hit the curb, ejecting her from the cycle. Kennedy was taken to Bayfront Medical Center, the highway patrol said. The incident remains under investigation.

SPRING HILL

Motorcyclist badly hurt after collision

A 21-year-old Spring Hill man was in critical condition Sunday evening after his motorcycle struck a pickup truck on U.S. 19, authorities said. Richard Charles Stiltner was headed north on U.S. 19 about 5:30 p.m. when his 2008 Kawasaki slammed into a 2005 Chevrolet Avalanche that was turning into his path, according to the Florida Highway Patrol. The driver of the Avalanche — Janice Giddens Crocket, 69, of Brooksville — had been traveling south on U.S. 19 and started to turn left onto Spring Hill Drive, according to the patrol. Stiltner, who was wearing a helmet, was thrown onto the hood and windshield of the truck, the patrol said. He was taken to Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point with critical injuries. Crocket suffered minor injuries. An investigation was under way.

BOCA RATON

Auto magnate Ed Morse dies

Ed Morse, the auto magnate whose car dealerships expanded from South Florida to the Tampa Bay area, died Friday. He was 91. Mr. Morse died of natural causes, a company spokesman told the (South Florida) *Sun Sentinel*. He was chairman and founder of Ed Morse Automotive Group, which began as a small auto rental company before merging with National Car Rental. Mr. Morse opened his first car dealership in 1961 in Miami. The business eventually grew to have an extensive Florida presence in five counties. They include two Ed Morse Cadillac dealerships and the Brandon Auto Mall in Hillsborough County, the Port Richey Auto Plaza in Pasco County and Ed Morse Mazda in Polk County.

Crowd lines up for Rubio's book tour

He arrived to cheers at Inkwood Books, where he was signing *An American Son.*

BY RICH SHOPES
Times Staff Writer

TAMPA — It wasn't intended to be a campaign stop, but as U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio visited a South Tampa bookseller Sunday to promote his memoir, a throng of vocal and partisan supporters were waiting to cheer him on.

As the 41-year-old senator stepped from a black tour bus — emblazoned with a photo of the cover of *An American Son* — applause and shouts of "Marco" erupted from the crowd. Some waved flags. Others, decked out in "Elect Rubio" buttons, stretched to shake hands with Rubio, who smiled and quickly entered Inkwood Books.

A line of about 150 supporters snaked outside. Some said they came to meet their senator. Many said they were there to cheer a rising star in the Republican Party.

"I've always been inspired by Marco, I mean Mr. Rubio," said University of Florida student Robert Demaio, 19, who drove from Seminole with his brother, Christian Demaio, 16.

Rubio's two-hour visit had the feel of a campaign stop, but the Republican dismissed assertions the visit was connected to Mitt Romney's presidential bid. He said he was there just to promote his book and meet supporters.

After stops Sunday in Naples, Sarasota and Tampa, Rubio and his aides were set to push ahead today to book signings in Orlando and Jacksonville.

"This is about the American dream and the struggles of a family," he said. "And when you get right down to it, we're all Americans."

An American Son story chronicles Rubio's relentless ascent up the political ladder, from his days as law student campaigning for Bob Dole in New Hampshire in 1996 to his time on the Miami City Commission and later as freshman state House member.

The story also delves deeply into his 2010 Senate race and contentious relationship with former Florida Gov. Charlie Crist, once the favorite to win.

Themes of family, ambition and the American Dream are sprinkled throughout the book.

Rubio recounts his upbringing by blue-collar parents and his special relationship with a grandfather, who instilled in him a love of politics and Ronald Reagan.

"When I read his book, it was like reading my own story," said Marisella Coll, 58, who emigrated from Cuba when she was 5, two years behind her father, Puro Hernandez, who was barred from returning to Cuba. "I told him we Cuban-Americans are very proud of him. He's an inspiration. He's one of us," said Coll, of north Tampa. "If my father was able, he would be here."

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CAROLINA HIDALGO | Times

Christian Demaio, 16, left, and his brother Robert, 19, pose with Sen. Marco Rubio at Inkwood Books in South Tampa on Sunday. The brothers drove from Seminole to see the senator.

» PRISONS continued from 1B

Health care contracting handcuffed by disputes

ratified by a panel of legislators, which has no meetings scheduled.

Attorneys for unions challenging privatization argue the project is dead because it was created with fine-print language in a budget that expired Saturday. The state counters it has the authority to privatize health care on its own, but that action would likely trigger more legal problems.

The Legislature tied Tucker's hands by cutting the prison budget by $14 million to reflect the mandated 7 percent cost savings through health privatization.

"Obviously, if we don't privatize, we are in the position of triggering a significant budget deficit," Tucker said.

This is the third time in the past 12 years that the state has embarked on the privatization of prison health care. Both attempts ended badly.

Six years ago, the Department of Corrections privatized health care in South Florida. The vendor, Prison Health Services, said it was not told of unexpected costs and it exercised its option to cut ties with the state. (Prison Health Services has since been acquired by Corizon.)

In 2000, the state hired Wexford to handle health care in South Florida prisons, but things soon went downhill.

Wexford sued the state to get a rate increase and won, and the state ended the partnership when the five-year contract expired. The vendor also said that medical and psychological needs of some inmates exceeded the terms of its contract.

A 2010 Senate staff report noted "numerous start-up difficulties" with the project, but improvement came later.

Corizon already has a state contract to provide mental health care to inmates in South Florida. An inmate at Dade Correctional Institution in Miami, Darren Rainey, 47, died June 23, and prison officials have declined to discuss the circumstances, saying the death is under investigation.

Rainey was serving a two-year sentence for cocaine possession in Pinellas County.

Nearly 3,000 state workers provide inmate health care. Their union has expressed concerns that they would be fired, but both vendors said they would rely on state employees to create a new workforce.

Wexford chief executive Mark Hale said his company typically hires "98 percent" of existing employees.

Hale said his firm does not cut workers' pay, but also does not offer a pension plan like the Florida Retirement System. Workers can invest in a 401(k) plan.

"It's a misnomer," added Jon Walker, a Corizon executive. "In every transition I'm aware of, they always start with the current staff."

Tucker wants to allow Corizon and Wexford to prove they can save the state money.

"Our core mission is security. I'm not a hospital administrator," he said.

Tucker, who was Scott's pick to replace the ousted Ed Buss as leader of the prison system last summer, hopes to complete the project before he retires in March 2013, but he isn't sure it will happen. Tucker, a 57-year-old career cop, is already the agency's fifth leader in the past six years.

"That's not a formula for success," Tucker said.

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Corrections agency quietly privatizes work-release sites

BY STEVE BOUSQUET
Times/Herald Tallahassee Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — When Gov. Rick Scott and legislators tried to privatize South Florida prisons, the state Senate rejected it.

When the state sought to privatize health care for inmates, two unions filed suit, stalling it.

Undeterred, the Department of Corrections is pursuing privatization on a new front. The agency will seek bids to privatize all 20 of its work-release centers, including three each in Pinellas County and South Florida, even though the Legislature didn't mandate it.

The state has not made the privatization plan public.

The prison system says it has the authority under state law, but the Teamsters union that represents state correctional officers is threatening a lawsuit.

Ken Wood, acting president of Teamsters Local 2011 in Tampa, calls the latest venture "highly suspect" and says: "We're reviewing our legal options."

Hundreds of nonviolent, well-behaved inmates approaching the end of their sentences live in small work-release centers and earn money working jobs in the community to smooth their return to society.

Private companies now run 13 of the 33 centers, and about 330 government employees work at the 20 state-run centers.

Even after closing six prisons, the nation's third-largest prison system continues to run a deficit and Corrections Secretary Ken Tucker is seeking to cut costs.

He said private operators hire employment specialists and have stronger ties with employers that hire inmates than the state does.

"If there's things the private providers can do better than us, then we should privatize it," Tucker said.

The plan has quietly been in the works at the Department of Corrections for some time. Scott's budget proposal to the Legislature early this year included privatizing six more work-release centers.

The Legislature, anticipating that step, reduced next year's prison budget by $460,000.

Privatization sets off alarms with state workers because it gives rise to fears of lost jobs or longer commutes to distant facilities.

The state plans to seek competitive bids by mid July.

Centers slated for outsourcing by Jan. 1, 2013, include those in St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Tarpon Springs, Pembroke Pines, Miami and Opa-locka.

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