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Three things to do in the Tampa area over spring break



With a variety of event offerings from Tampa to St. Pete, students will have a host of fun activities to choose from when making spring break plans. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/FLICKR

By Hannah Wagner

Spring break is usually regarded as a time to relax before resuming class to finish off the last half of the semester, and the Tampa area boasts plenty of March activities for students looking to have some well-deserved fun.

From the annual Plant City Strawberry Festival to the Tampa Pride Diversity Parade, this year's event offerings are sure to entertain any of USF's spring breakers.

The Gasparilla Music Festival

Set between March 10-12, the Gasparilla Music Festival (GMF) will hold its 12th downtown bout at an alternate venue from its usual location at Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park.

Following a basement water leak in the nearby Kiley Gardens underground

parking garage, concerns from the city of Tampa forced event organizers to search for a new downtown location, according to a Jan. II WUSF article.

An event venue or times have still not been announced as of Sunday, however, those looking to attend are able to purchase tickets and sign up for email updates on the event website.

While this year's line-up has not yet been announced by event organizers, attendees were able to listen to over 50 artists in 2022, including popular bands such as The Aces and Grouplove.

As of last year, festival goers were able to attend a variety of events throughout GMF's duration, such as a silent disco, arts and crafts show and a private kid's fest for children under the age of 12. Those looking to taste some of Tampa's diverse cuisine could dine at a host of food trucks, including Calle Cocina, Big Jay's Barbecue,

Cafe Hey and Big Ray's Fish Camp.

Whether it be exploring your artsy side, trying new food or listening to both local and popular artists with your friends, students should be sure to monitor GMF's website for more information as event organizers finalize festival planning.

Reggae Rise Up

Reggae Rise Up — which will be hosted from March 16-19 at Vinoy Park in St. Pete, a 5 minute drive from the St. Pete campus — is expected to see over 15,000 fans daily to watch some of today's hottest reggae artists, according to the event website.

Artists featured include various local bands as well as popular artists such as Rebelution, the Dirty Heads, Wiz Khalifa, Sublime and son of notorious reggae artist Bob Marley, Damian "Jr. Gong" Marley.

Tickets will range between \$70-\$140

depending on whether one purchases a single or multi-day pass, with VIP lounge seating starting at \$1250 a day, according to the Festival website.

Event organizers will also be hosting a visual arts festival, a vendor lineup and outdoors Festival Yoga Flow sessions at Spa Beach Park on the St. Pete pier. With 30 food trucks available to event goers, some eats to look out for include arepas and empanadas from Enrique's Place, fair-style fried food from Funnel Vision, sweet and savory stuffed pretzel rolls from Get Baked and Hawaiian stir fry from Island Noodles.

Tampa Pride Diversity Parade

Although classes will have returned to session, students will only have to wait a

n See ACTIVITIES on PAGE 9

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Spring break sports guide

By Lanie De La Milera

With the spring semester comes an array of different sports events, ranging from USF to all over the Tampa Bay region.

For South Florida, baseball, softball and tennis are all in season and will host games during spring break. In the professional realm, MLB is in the peak of its spring training all of March while the Tampa Bay Lightning close out their last full month of the regular

Here are some matchups taking place in Tampa during spring break:

South Florida baseball and softball

USF baseball (3-8) and softball (9-9) will host a total of 17 home games from March 9-19, leaving plenty of opportunities for some to watch the Bulls in the prime of their seasons.

Softball will begin its 12-game spring break slate on March 9 against Penn State in the South Florida Showdown. During the tournament, the team will also take on Illinois, Marist and St. Francis till March 12.

In its midweek matchup, USF will host Jacksonville for a midweek doubleheader on March 15 before another jampacked weekend. Beginning March 17, the Bulls will face No. 11 Texas, Lehigh, Marist and Iowa.

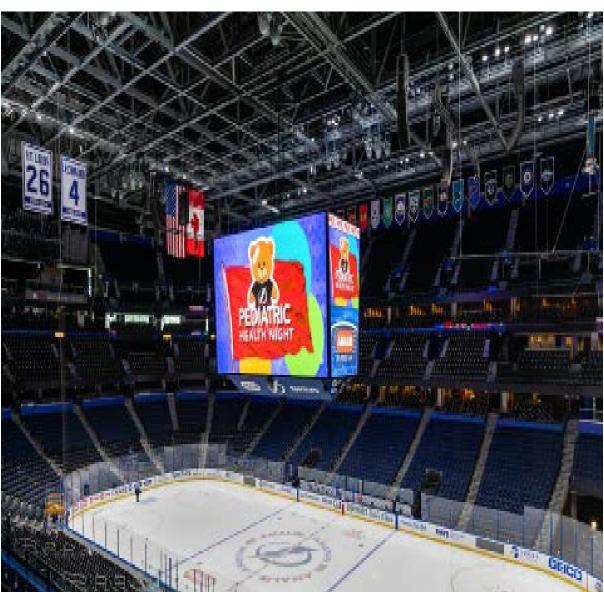
Just on the other side of the ORACLE/FLICKR complex, USF baseball will play against Dartmouth from March 14-15 for a midweek series followed by a three-game series against Army March 17-19.

South Florida tennis

Men's and women's tennis will host a total of five contests at home from March 11-16.

As for the women, they will host two conference foes, playing Cincinnati on March 14 and Wichita State on March 16.

Lightning will play at Amalie Arena for two weekends straight from March 11-12 and March 18-19. In the first weekend, the Lightning will compete against



Attending a local sports game can prove to be a lot of fun for yourself or a large group. SPECIAL TO THE

Starting with the men's team, they will play a doubleheader on March II against the University of the Pacific followed by UNCW. One week later they will face future conference opponent UAB on March 19.

Tampa Bay Lightning

The Tampa Bay Lightning head into the last stretch of its season in March before heading into its playoff crunch in April.

During the break, the

the Blackhawks and Jets then the Canadiens and Devils the next.

All four games are scheduled for 7 p.m. and tickets are available to purchase here.

MLB Spring Training

Major League Baseball season is quickly approaching, with spring training in full swing with multiple teams within driving range from USF.

At spring training, fans and ball clubs have the opportunity to watch some of the best athletes in the game while watching the next generation of players take the field as they climb through the farm system.

Just 20 minutes down the road is the Yankees' spring training facility, where New York will host five home games over the course of the week. On March II and 15, the Yankees will play the Phillies, the Bule Jays on March 14, the Pirates on March 16 and the Orioles on March 19.

Across the bay are the Blue Jays and Phillies in Clearwater just 15 minutes apart from each other.

Toronto will play five in Dunedin while Philadelphia will showcase four during spring break. The Blue Jays will take on the Orioles on March II, Boston on March 13, the Pirates on March 15, Phillies on March 17 and the Yankees on March 18.

Philadelphia will battle the Jays on March 12 and 17, then the Braves on March 14 and finally the Red Sox on March

Spring training continue up until March 28, with plenty of games going on for all teams until then. Fans can purchase tickets through MLB and select what team they want to watch.



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What you need to know for this year's Strawberry Festival



Founded in 1930, the Strawberry Festival has come back for its 88th year as the most-attended fair in the state of Florida. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/FLICKR

By Camila Gomez

Plant City's annual Strawberry Festival is officially in full gear with rides, attractions, food and headlining country, pop and rock artists ready for anyone to check

The festival will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. until the fair's final day of operation on March 12 at 303 BerryFest Place, Plant City.

Admission costs \$10 for all adults and \$5 for children ages six to 12. Admission is free for

children 5 years old and under. There are also special discount tickets which can be bought at some Publix locations throughout Tampa.

Rides and Attractions

Kiddie Korral will open at 10 a.m. and is perfect for those attending with younger children, as it has "wider aisles for easy to navigate stroller access and more seating," according to the event's website.

The attraction features over 20 rides including the Century

Wheel, Safari Train, Crazy Plane and Berry Go Round.

Visitors can also attend the Neighborhood Village which is dedicated to showcasing homemade and handcrafted items from those in the community and will be open all days of the festival.

There are categories for the showcase you can check out include cake decorating, baking, jewelry, upcycled wearables and woodworking, among others. Winners are awarded monetary prizes and ribbons.

For the chance to see farm

animals up close, guests can attend the livestock shows which feature cows, sheeps, pigs, rabbits and chickens. Certain animals will be on display on specific days.

The Belle City Midway will also be available starting daily at noon except from Saturday to Monday, when it will open at 10 a.m. Featuring over 30 rides, the Midway is split up into kiddie rides and thrilling rides including Universal Horror, Scorpion, the Haunted Mansion and the Dinosaur Kiddie Ride.

On March 10, a special event

dubbed Moonlight Magic Night will take place from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. and will allow attendees to ride attractions for a cost of \$30.

Artists were also called by the East Hillsborough Art Guild for the festival's Fine Art Show, where both youth and adults were able to submit oils, acrylics, graphic and mixed media and sculptures. Winners of each category will win monetary awards, including a \$300 prize for the best of the show.

n See FESTIVAL on PAGE 9

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023 THE ORACLE SPRING BREAK 2023

FESTIVAL

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Food and Sweets

In order to get a taste of delicious strawberryflavored sweets, make sure to be on the lookout for some strawberry shortcakes. The most popular options to find the one you love are the St. Clements Shortcake Booth, Transforming Life Church: Inside Entenmann's Strawberry Tent and the East Historical Society Shortcake Booth, according to a Feb. 28 Tampa Bay Times article.

For other hints of strawberry in your food and drinks, you can try out the milkshakes and strawberry horchata offered by vendors, a Strawberry Brisket Taco from Johnsons Barbeque, the Strawberry Freeze from A&M Concessions and a Very Berry Battered Corn Dog from the Dessert Factory.

You can also find some delicious classics like chocolate covered strawberries from Chocolate Strawberry Express or Strawberry Jam from Parkesdale Farms.

It is also important to remember that no alcohol is permitted in the festival.

Music

There will be 24 headlining musicians

at this year's Strawberry Festival throughout the weeks when the festival will be open. Prices for entry are separate from admission and range from free entry to \$60. Around two to three concerts will be held each day at 10:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m and 10:30 p.m.

For the specific times at which your favorite artists will be performing, make sure to check the festival's website.

Among those who are performing this year are The Pointer Sisters on March 8 at 7:30 p.m., Bill Haley Jr. and The Comets on March 9 at 10:30 p.m. and For King and Country on

March 9 at 7:30 p.m. As of Sunday, the only sold out show is Willie Nelson and Family.

Whether it's music, delicious food or thrill-seeking rides you're looking for this spring break, the Strawberry Festival is the perfect place to visit.

ACTIVITIES
Continued from PAGE 4

week after resuming their lectures to join LGBTQ members of the Tampa community at the Tampa Diversity Parade on March 25.

Hosted throughout the Ybor City historic district — or as referred to by event organizers, "GaYBOR" — attendees will be able to watch the free parade spanning from the corner of Nuccio Parkway and E. 7th Street to N. 20th Street, according to the parade website.

The parade is expected to begin at 4 p.m. and no official end time has been announced as of Sunday. However, various pre-parade activities will begin at 10:45 a.m. with a performance by the Tampa Pride Band, guest speakers and other live entertainment.

Following activities leading up to the parade include an arts and crafts show, food alley, community health fair and entrepreneur's area.

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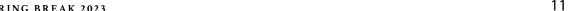






MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023 THE ORACLE

SPRING BREAK 2023





Ringling Museum of Art

Ringling by the Bay Multiple dates https://www.ringling.org/

2023 Florida Strawberry Festival

Mar 2nd thru Mar 12th, Plant City Visit FLstrawberryfestival.com for details or #berryfest23. Admission required.

Clearwater Aquarium

March 11th, at 9am Adopt-a-Park Clean Up & **Pet Photo Session** https://www.cmaquarium.org/

River O'Green Fest

March 18, 11:00am - 5:00 Pm **Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park** http://riverogreen.com/

Junings Festival

March 18th & 19th Raymond James Stadium https://www.inningsfestival.com/florida

USF Recreation & Wellness

usf.edu/campusrec

ZooTampa

https://zootampa.org/

Canoeing Lettuce Lake

6920 E Fletcher Ave., Tampa visitflorida.com

Empower Adventures

423 Lafayette Blvd., Oldsmar https://www.zipontampabay.com/

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What to do if red tide dampers your spring break plans

By Harriet Hanley

Last week, red tide swept through Anna Maria Island and Longboat Key and is steadily heading north towards St. Pete and Clearwater beaches, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. But this should not stop USF students from having fun on their spring break.

While red tide does make it difficult to enjoy your favorite beaches, there are lots of things to do around Tampa Bay instead of getting in the water.

Red tide has impacted the tourism industry in Florida quite a lot over the past several summers, and this summer looks like it is going to be no different. The red tide cells per liter range from 10,000 to 1,000,000 starting near Venice Beach and up through St. Pete Beach, according to Florida's Red Tide Map.

Beachgoers in St. Pete told Bay News 9 they were experiencing a scratchy throat and coughing, according to a March 1 article. There were also several dead fish on the beach.

However, this does not mean that spring break has to be a bust. The Tampa Bay Area has much more to offer.

In St. Pete, students can visit the Dalí Museum. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., the museum showcases artwork by surrealist Salavdor Dalí in the form of original works and also virtual reality exhibits. Student tickets range from \$18-\$20.

You can also check out the Museum of Fine Arts St. Petersburg. Closed on Mondays, it is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every other day. Student admission is \$17. Along with its regular collection, there is



There are plenty of ways to enjoy Florida during spring break even if you can't go to the beach. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/FLICKR

currently an exhibition about Rodin and the impressionist era.

For those that still want to enjoy Florida's beautiful outdoors, you can explore the Sunken Gardens in St. Petersburg. A "living museum," some of the plants in the garden are around 100 years old. This is the perfect place to take your would-have-been beach picnic and shoot some cool photos with your friends.

For the nature lovers, there are also multiple botanical

gardens in the area that show off the plants, flowers, trees and even some of the animals that Florida has to offer. The USF Botanical Gardens gives students the chance to see a plethora of different plants without even leaving campus. Admission is only \$1 for USF students, and there is plenty to see.

The Florida Botanical Gardens in Largo is also a great place to explore. This park has 150 acres of landscapes and habitats and completely free admission.

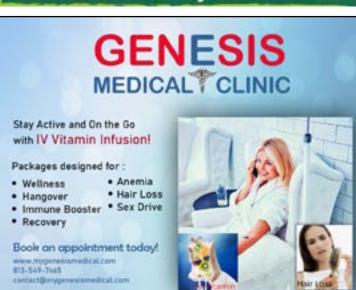
You can also head over to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. At the aquarium, visitors have the opportunity to see animals such as dolphins, sea turtles, sharks and stingrays. They are open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and admission costs \$35.95.

If you are on a budget, Moccasin Lake Nature Park in Clearwater is a great place to soak up the outdoors on a sunny spring break day. This park is entirely free to guests, and visitors can enjoy paved walking trails with picnic benches and restrooms. It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday but closed on Monday.

Due to the red tide, spring breakers may have to give up a lot of their favorite activities. Fortunately, there are plenty of things to do in the Tampa Bay Area, so students don't have to let this ruin their break.



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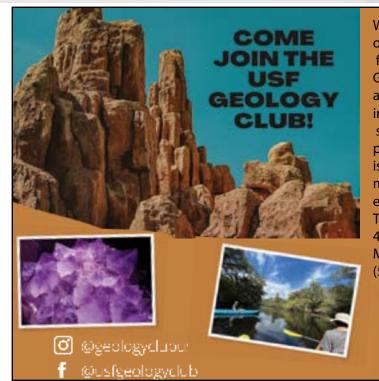


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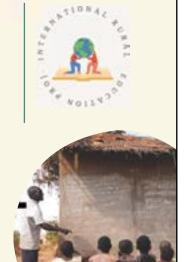
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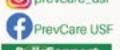
Self-Care and Crafts Night, Mar 22. 7:00 pm - 8:45 pm,

MSC 2100A

Boba Social Apr 12. 7:30 pm - 9:15 pm, MSC 2708

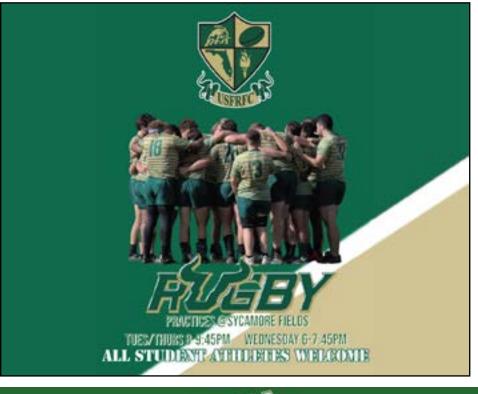


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