

things to do



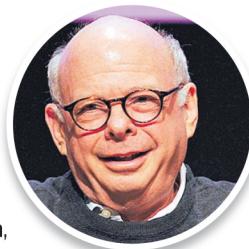
Sharon Kennedy Wynne, tampabay.com/things-to-do



ANDRES LEIVA | Times

GEEK OUT: TAMPA BAY COMIC CON

Now in its seventh year, **Tampa Bay Comic Con** returns to the Tampa Convention Center this weekend, bringing actors **Kate Beckinsale**, left, **Nichelle Nichols** (Star Trek's Lt. Uhura), **Khary Payton** (Ezekiel in *The Walking Dead*) and the "inconceivable" **Wallace Shawn**, right, from *The Princess Bride*. Val Kilmer canceled



on Tuesday. But best of all is a huge hall packed with overflowing tables of comic books and collectibles and chances to mingle with cosplayers, celebrities and artists. With a packed schedule of Nerdy Speed Dating, a Harry Potter musical tribute, panels and celebrity Q&A sessions, you need to plan in advance to make the most of it.

This is the first year without a printed program. Instead, schedules for panels, contests, registrations and a list of celebs and their Q&A sessions are at tampabaycomiccon.com or on the event's free app. It opens at noon Friday, 8 a.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. Sunday at the convention center, 333 S Franklin St. \$30 Friday or Sunday, \$40 Saturday, \$60 for a three-day pass. Kids 12 and younger are free.



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BASEBALL: EXTRAS FOR FANS



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It's a lot easier to take your crew out to the old ball game this weekend.

You can get 25-cent hot dogs and fireworks at the **Clearwater Threshers** games this weekend against Daytona Tortugas.

On Friday, Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce Night features that deal on hot dogs as well as the ThreshersCon Costume Contest, \$14 all-you-can-eat tickets and a post-game concert by the Black Honkeys. If you go Saturday, stick around for post-game fireworks. Both games are at 6:25 p.m. at Spectrum Field (formerly Bright House Field), 601 Old Coachman Road, Clearwater. \$6-\$10. (727) 467-4457. threshersbaseball.com.

The **Tampa Bay Rays** are out of town playing the Yankees on Sunday. But you can catch the 1:05 p.m. game at the Guy Harvey Outpost on St. Pete Beach. There will be a giant screen set up on the sand, 620-AM WDAE will broadcast live and the Rays Street Team will have giveaways. Try the Triple WipeOut Surf Simulator there for \$4. 6000 Gulf Blvd., St. Pete Beach. Free, \$10 parking. (727) 367-6461.

LIME TIME: MARGARITA WARS

Back for its fourth year, **Margarita Wars** features more than 15 of Tampa Bay's best mixologists will wage a tequila battle to claim the top prize. To give you an idea of the creativity at work, the 2016 winner was Datz mixologist Morgan Zuch's drink that featured edible flowers, prickly pear and Tidal Boar Ginger Beer. Zuch also won in 2014 with a strawberry smoked rose margarita. There will also be Mexican-inspired bites from local restaurants and a photo booth. 7-10 p.m. Friday at TPepin's Hospitality Centre, 4121 N 50th St., Tampa. \$50 advance, \$60 day of. \$75-\$85 VIP adds an extra hour of line-free sampling, extra cuisine and Margarita Wars swag. (813) 739-4879. ctampa.com/margaritawars.



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5 under \$5

1 Bucs Training Camp: The public is invited to a series of free Bucs practices through Aug. 26. And don't forget this season HBO's *Hard Knocks* will focus on the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, including quarterback Jameis Winston, right. There will be discounted concessions, merchandise tents, appearances by cheerleaders and Captain Fear, and autographs from players after each practice. 8:45-10:30 a.m. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday this week. One Buc Place, 1 Buccaneer Place, Tampa. Free. buccaneers.com.



2 Dive-In Movie: It's not just kids who get pool-side movies in the summer. This Saturday the Hollander Hotel will have DJ dancing and trivia before a screening of *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. 7-11 p.m. Saturday. 421 Fourth Ave. N, St. Petersburg. Free entry, food/drink additional. (727) 873-7900.

3 Indoor Golf: Two libraries are turning their stacks into links this week. The Book Maniacs Mini Golf at Largo Public Library will turn the entire library into an 18-hole family golf course made of recycled materials. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. 120 Central Park Drive. \$2 per player or \$6 for four, to benefit the Teen Room at the library. (727) 587-6715. On Friday night, East Lake Community Library will have a nine-hole indoor golf course set up 6:30-8:30 p.m. and games for families. 4125 East Lake Road S, Palm Harbor. \$5, \$3 ages 6-17, 5 and younger free. (727) 773-2665.

4 Rock Painting Workshop: In conjunction with its exhibition of animal-inspired art, Wild and Wooly, Florida CraftArt Galleries is holding a workshop on painting creatures on rocks 1-3 p.m. Saturday. It's \$5 and materials are provided. Space is limited; RSVP required at (727) 821-7391. The exhibition of more than 35 artists' work remains on display through Aug. 12 at 501 Central Ave., St. Petersburg.

5 Free Tuesday at Glazer Museum: The hands-on museum and the Children's Board of Hillsborough County join for this event offering free admission from noon to 7 p.m. Check out the museum's new Pop Art exhibit that teaches kids screening printing, stamping and other techniques to make their own portrait for the gallery wall. Free. Glazer Children's Museum, 110 W Gasparilla Plaza, Tampa. (813) 443-3861.