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Student organization model stifles growth

By Erica Hampton
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Student organizations at USF St. Petersburg that welcome all students receive Activities and Services fees; however not all organizations are treated equally in the funding process.

Under the current model, there are three categories in which student club and organizations fall. Some receive A&S funding and they do not have to pay a penny back. Others receive funding, they have to pay a percentage back, and they can benefit from an incentive. For example, the fitness center puts additional funding from membership fees into an auxiliary fund that they can use. Finally, one student organization receives funding, has to pay a percentage back, and does not benefit from an incentive.

In order to create equality amongst all student clubs and organizations, the category that does allow for incentive should be eliminated. Student organizations on campus are designed to assist students in both learning and growth, and if a funding model is set forth that do not allow for these fundamental educational goals that option should not exist.

The Crow’s Nest is currently the only group in the category that does not encourage working toward fiscal independence. Because of this, the students’ newspaper has not been able to grow toward being free of student government funding, which prevents the organization from serving the purpose set forth by the U.S. Constitution: to objectively inform the public and serve as an independent watchdog of government.

I challenge the Department of Student Life to consider the current funding models and to take whatever actions are necessary to eliminate options that discourage financial growth and independence. Any group that is relegated to a non-incentive option will be destined to be dependent on SG funding forever. The Crow’s Nest should be able to keep funds raised from advertising dollars in order to begin building a surplus so that the publication can begin working towards independence. In order to create equality for all student organizations, change is needed.
Students pay extra for online classes

By Kerry Schofield
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Convenience almost always comes at a cost, and USF St. Petersburg students can fully understand this.

In 2008, the Florida Legislature imposed a distance-learning fee on college students who take online classes. The standard fee of $35 per credit hour covers development and delivery costs for online courses.

Mark Pezzo, associate dean of the college of arts and sciences, said a faculty committee decides how to use the money from the additional fee.

"Let's really think about the best way to benefit the students and the faculty and the school that's cost effective that really makes us be the sort of school that students want to come," Pezzo said.

Pezzo explained that online classes have enrollment caps ranging from 25 to 250 students per class. One class in particular had a cap of 200 students and was completely filled.

"The caps are set based on a combination need—what the professor and the chair and the college feel is appropriate for the content—and also the experience of the professor," he said.

Pezzo emphasized that online classes have the same content and standards as traditional courses held on campus. He said the college of arts and sciences offers online classes with a broad appeal, which help students meet their general education requirements.

"There's always the assumption that the online class is substandard," Pezzo said. "In practice, nothing could be further from the truth."

David Brodosi, coordinator of the instructional media department at Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, produces the media-enhanced online courses. He said there were mixed results from a student survey about online courses last semester.

One student said he was put off by the cost of $35 per credit hour, but the class allowed him to work on his own schedule and spend more time with his children.

Other students think the costs should be offset by the price they pay towards the upkeep of campus facilities, such as electric and janitorial services, because they are not utilizing them.

According to Brodosi, the fees also pay for technical and support services, which are essential components to running a successful online class.

"They forget about the technical issues, so it means we are doing our job and the magic happens," he said. "They don't have to think twice about when something is broken."

Students who are interested in taking an online course in the future can preview a media-enhanced class with a sample syllabus and lecture at www.dl.usf.edu/demo.html.
SG passed two new bills before winter break

By Faye Moss
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Days before fall semester ended, Student Government passed two new bills totaling $77,175.

Sen. Chase Edwards sponsored bill 09-019, Resolution for the Gym Renovations, which designated a $75,000 budget for a new fitness center equipment. It passed with 13 approved and 2 abstained votes. The second purchase of new DJ equipment passed through bill 09-018, Resolution to Allocate Funds from Bull Horn Radio's DJ Service, was sponsored by Sen. Christian Haas.

The funding for these bills was collected from the students' Activity and Service fee and is used for SG facilitated services and student organizations. The A & S fee charged to students depends on how many credit hours they take each semester. SG Vice President Reuben Pressman said the university's administration asked to use the student funds for the gym equipment. Recently, state budget cuts reduced the Capitol Improvement Trust Fund that is used to pay for non-academic projects. USF St. Petersburg Budget, Accounting and Financial Services Web page stated the CITF paid for the $176,877 gym expansion project and the $164,938 re-roofing project on the Campus Activities Center building last year.

In November, the original $100,000 fitness center equipment bill was vetoed by SG President Jon Ellington. According to the Dec. 1 meeting, Ellington explained his reasoning was because he "did not feel there was enough discussion with the students, Senate and committees." Ellington was not the only one who felt rushed to make a decision. Sen. Haas shared his concerns in the Oct. 27 meeting. "I do not fully understand why we should rush through, we should think through these things more," said Haas.

Ellington changed his mind after Intramural and Fitness Coordinator Marty Dempsey and the Grounds Committee surveyed students and frequent users of the gym to find out what equipment they want replaced. Dempsey also created a three-tier equipment price plan for SG to review.

The second, and professional DJ for campus events. According to the bill "equipment cost will be paid for in less than four events" and "will last for at least five years."

In the Dec. 1 Senate meeting there were some reservations about voting on the bill before spring semester started. The bill passed with 9 approved, 2 opposed and 3 abstained votes. Possible plans to pay students for their DJ services, deciding where that money will go and expanding into the community are being worked out between SG and BHR. Brad Richardson, BHR vice president, said he thinks this investment will start a network of services among all of the organizations. "If we can help each other save money by working together and gain practical experience at the same time, everybody wins," he said.

SG spending

New Fitness Center Equipment
$75,000

DJ Equipment
$2,157

Total spent on two new bills: $77,175

The newly established Bull Horn Radio purchase of a $2,175 DJ system was also made before winter break. The digital package contains the latest technology so students can gain real life experience in the field. The DJ equipment however, is not exclusively for the club. Other campus organizations have the opportunity to reserve it.

Previously, student organizations were paying up to $600 to hire a professional DJ for campus events. According to the bill "equipment cost will be paid for in less than four events" and "will last for at least five years."
CAMPUS & BEYOND

Exhibit creates awareness against violence

By Amy Blanton
Staff Writer
ablanto2@mail.usj.edu

Gender Based Violence: Congo/ Women Portraits of War Women on the Frontline, is a photograph exhibit of men, children and women who have been harmed physically and emotionally as a result of the war between the two tribes in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"Not all of us can express ourselves using words," said Linda Osmundson, Executive Director of Community Action Stops Abuse.

Accompanying the photographs are topics showing things that occurred because of the war in Congo, such as the physical and psychological impact of rape, judicial response to sexual violence and women in global conflict.

"We can literally change every one of these sectors," said Leslie Thomas, the Congo women exhibit curator and the executive and creative director of the Chicago-based ArtWorks.

The exhibit was accompanied by a lecture entitled At Home and Abroad: The Role of Art and Artists in Creating Social Change. The lecture featured a group of panelists who expressed their opinion on how art can help change society in a positive way.

Patrick Henry, a sociology professor at Eckerd College, believes that homelessness is one social issue needing attention because it affects people locally, and it is a problem that reflects the range of our social economy.

Carl Lavender, the executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of the southeast, said that they are partnering with the Royal Theatre on exposing children to the arts through drama, music, poetry and other ways.

"One of the most important things that we teach to the children is that they are a child of the universe and not a child of their address," Lavender said.

Osmundson is tackling social awareness through a different form of art. Her project consists of showcasing t-shirts that women have decorated to describe their experiences of abuse, known as the Clothesline Project. "The small t-shirts are for children that did not live and some t-shirts are white to symbolize battered women," Osmundson said. According to Osmundson, the clothesline project in Straub Park is one of the largest in the country, housing about 1,000 t-shirts.

The exhibit will be on display at the Poynter Institute from Jan. 11 through Feb. 20.

Campus to offer H1N1 flu vaccines

By Alaine Alexander
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On Feb. 3, USF St. Petersburg's Center for Counseling, Health and Wellness will offer free H1N1 vaccinations to all students, faculty and staff with a valid school ID. The Pinellas County Health Department will be on campus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Campus Activities Center to administer the vaccine.

In 2009, a new strain of influenza called the swine flu, or H1N1, spread rapidly around the world and mushroomed into pandemic proportions. Typically isolated to the pig species, this highly contagious virus had now transferred from pigs to humans. Because humans have little immunity to this new strain of influenza, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends getting the H1N1 vaccine.

Seasonal flu symptoms and those associated with swine flu are similar: coughing, headache, fever, chills, sore throat and muscle aches. Now that students are nearly a month into the semester with pressing paper deadlines, internships, class presentations and tests, most can’t afford to get sick.

But when your roommate starts sneezing, don’t panic. The World Health Organization suggests following these guidelines to safeguard yourself against the flu: avoid being around people who are sick, wash your hands regularly with soap and hot water, cover your nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing, and avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes to prevent germs from spreading.

For more information, contact the Center for Counseling, Health and Wellness at 727-877-4422 or visit their website at www.stp.usf.edu/h1n1/index.htm.
## Will Avatar change movies in the future?

By Andrew Silverstein
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asilvers@mail.usf.edu

Big blue cats are recession-proof. Who knew?

"Avatar" has been out for a little over a month, and now we see how it has affected the movie-going public, which judging by the $1.1 billion the film has grossed, is all of us.

People apparently love it. Descriptions like "awe-inspiring" and "revolutionary" have fallen like feathers from the mouths of fans and critics alike.

Is it deserved? Maybe.

"Avatar" is great, maybe even the best, in the visual department. To go from people molding a clay gorilla in the original King Kong to what Avatar accomplishes in less than a century is amazing. But visual effects are only one aspect of the film experience. Films can look as sleek and pretty as they want, but true, lasting, cinematic beauty comes from the heart of the film, not the cool blue skin its sporting.

As innovative as "Avatar's" visual side is, the story is just incredibly underwhelming. It is like James Cameron gave us the biggest, coolest gift box ever, but when we open it we find the same deck of dollar store Uno cards that Aunt Patty has given us for the past six years.

Also, the dividing line between good and evil is so defined it is almost insulting. Big, buzz-cut military man with face scar equals bad. Pretty, blue cat people equal good.

Since it is absolutely annihilating the box office, "Avatar" will, in all likelihood, set a precedent for more visually stunning, yet acceptably cliche and personality-devoid films for the next few years. Remember when "Spiderman" came out? Remember the onslaught of comic-book movies after that? Exactly.

While the effects are great, should those really be the only thing a movie's cultural value is based on? If it was, a Disney cartoon film or filmed in a real jungle instead of a digital one, would we really be giving this thing the Golden Globe for best picture?

So "Avatar" is great, maybe even even the best, in the visual department. To go from people molding a clay gorilla in the original King Kong to what Avatar accomplishes in less than a century is amazing. But visual effects are only one aspect of the film experience. Films can look as sleek and pretty as they want, but true, lasting, cinematic beauty comes from the heart of the film, not the cool blue skin its sporting.

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### Calendar of Events: February 1–7, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Get a slice at Joey</td>
<td>Coffee with a Curator — &quot;Dali &amp; Alice in Wonderland&quot;</td>
<td>February 4</td>
<td>&quot;Racial Profiling&quot; Noon</td>
<td>February 6 Vietnamese New Year Celebration</td>
<td>February 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Get Downtown</td>
<td>Coffee with a Curator</td>
<td>Dali Museum</td>
<td>February 5</td>
<td>&quot;Racial Profiling&quot; Noon</td>
<td>Vietnamese New Year Celebration</td>
<td>Green Market and Street Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Ave. N. and 2nd St. N.</td>
<td>11 a.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
<td>complimentary coffee and a guided museum tour</td>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>Vietnamese New Year Celebration</td>
<td>Vietnamese New Year Celebration</td>
<td>Green Market and Street Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>ACT NOW for Haiti: Campus-</td>
<td>Heavy metal band</td>
<td>First Fridays Music Series</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Coliseum</td>
<td>11 a.m. - 3 p.m.</td>
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<td>11 a.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Wide Bake Sale</td>
<td>Between the Buried and Me</td>
<td>Earl Klugh, jazz</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>Salsa Dancing at the Pier</td>
<td>1 p.m. - 3 p.m.</td>
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<td>Harborside Lawn</td>
<td>11 a.m. - 3 p.m.</td>
<td>State Theatre in St. Petersburg</td>
<td>guitarist, in Concert</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Ellenton</td>
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<td>Protests go to help</td>
<td>Plant a Tree as part of</td>
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<td>The Palladium,</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>Sports Complex, Ellenton.</td>
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<td>earthquake victims in</td>
<td>Green Week</td>
<td></td>
<td>SPC</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>Salsa Dancing at the Pier</td>
<td>Proceeds from this</td>
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<td>Haiti. Also accepting</td>
<td>11 a.m. - 3 p.m.</td>
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<td>John Mayer with</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Music Fest on the Water</td>
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<td>money, canned goods,</td>
<td>Harborside Lawn</td>
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<td>special guest Michael</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>Free salsa dancing</td>
<td>1 p.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
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<td>toileties, and clothes.</td>
<td>Each student will be</td>
<td></td>
<td>Franti &amp; Spearhead</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>lessons at Captain Al's</td>
<td>The Pier</td>
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<td>&quot;Plant a Tree&quot; as</td>
<td>given a Bonsai tree and</td>
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<td>comes to the St. Pete</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>Waterfront Restaurant</td>
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<td>part of Green Week</td>
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<td>Times Forum in</td>
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<td>plant it. Students will</td>
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<td>Tampa</td>
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<td>Each student will be</td>
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<td>public skate session</td>
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<td>given a Bonsai tree and</td>
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<td>will be donated to</td>
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<td>Haitian Fund</td>
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<td>not be planting trees on</td>
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<td>Music Fest on the</td>
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<td>receive reusable grocery</td>
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<td>issues; but everyone will</td>
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<td>1 p.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
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A change in direction

By Lenay Ruhl
Section Editor
lruhl1038@yahoo.com

I lived in the same small town in Pennsylvania, in the same house my entire life.

It is the kind of town where everybody knows everybody. Everything around me was continually familiar. Day after day my life was annoyingly repetitive. When looking ahead at the rest of my life, it seemed I could already predict exactly how it would turn out.

My first two years of college I remained at home and went to a community school. Although I was going to college, nothing else really changed for me. I had the same friends. I had the same bedroom in the basement. I had my sister stealing my clothes. I knew every road like the back of my hand. Around every corner was the same memory. Each weekend was the same drama with the same people.

Eventually, something in me snapped. I was tired of the life I was living. I wanted something different. Change is terrifying, and leaving behind everything and everyone you ever knew is unnerving. Yet sometimes, in order to grow, we have to leave our old selves behind in search of who we are meant to be.

I applied to the University of South Florida St Petersburg for numerous reasons. First of all, this is an area my family vacations so it was easy to come see the school. Second of all, I figured if I was going to go into debt as a result of college, I might as well enjoy some place warm. Third, it was far enough away from home that I could still fly back once in awhile to visit, but I would be forced to leave the familiarity behind.

When I actually got accepted to USF, I was scared to death. I knew that I did not have a choice. I had the opportunity to make the change that I needed, and I had to take it. Now, here I am, living in the dorms, attending classes for mass communications, writing for the newspaper and experiencing life in a city with friends that I would have never met had I not decided to step outside my comfort zone.

Pay less for Payless' new spring shoe fashions

By Nikeya Williams
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Ladies, it is almost that time to start looking for more strappy, chunky and funky shoes for the spring. I know, that funky print and other high-end designs on things. Many of them are designing looking for more strappy, chucky and is one of my favorite places to shop for Mediterranean Travel.

The Mercedes-Benz fashion continued with the classy yet chunky designs from Lela Rose.

Rose's shoe collection featured sculpted wedge heels, crisscross straps and pretty peep toe Mary Janes. They are cute and dressy, and you can wear them on a hot date or on a regular work day around the office. Stacy Bendet concluded the show with her platform pump, tall slouchy boot, flat gladiator sandal and a platform heel.

Ladies, buy Bendet's designs just in time for that very special day coming up...you know...that day when all your girlfriends receive red roses and a box of chocolates from their sweetheart.

So if you are looking for something cute for your Valentine's outfit, you might want to stop by Payless soon.

This year, the spring shoe fashion will have you in a mesmerized. So grab your boots and throw them in the back of your closet, because you will need more room for these fresher and more sophisticated looks.

I have found that there is something exhilarating in living a life that you chose, not knowing where you will go and who you could end up becoming.

There is also a comfort in knowing that I always have the option to go home. If there is one thing I've learned in all of this, it's that it is easier to take a chance when you step back and ask yourself, "What do I really have to lose?"

You only live once. It's important to realize that sometimes there will be no a clear signs of where you should go. Day after day does not have to be exactly the same or planned out. If you don't' like your life, only you can change it.
that put two on hand. Good luck.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Be careful about “experts” who have no solid business background. Instead, seek advice on enhancing your business prospects from bona fide sources with good success records.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Standing up to support a colleague’s viewpoint even if it’s unpopular can be difficult if you feel outnumbered. But you’ll win plaudits for your honesty and courage.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) While progress continues on resolving that recurring problem, you might feel it’s taking too long. But these things always need to develop at their own pace. Be patient.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Someone close to you might have a financial problem and seek your advice. If you do decide to get involved, insist on seeing everything that’s at stake be relevant to this situation.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your warmth and generosity both of spirit and substance endear you to everyone.

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Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex: HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked ♠ HEART letter string as each unscramble into more than one word (ex: ♠ RATHED becomes HATER or HEART). Each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.
SPORTS

When will female athletes get some respect?

By Greg Lindberg
Section Editor
glindber@mail.usf.edu

For centuries, men have always enjoyed an advantage in our society. They have had better jobs. They have made more money. And more than anything, they get more attention because of their gender’s status.

But do not count out the women just yet. We all know about how females have made tremendous social progress in recent years, perhaps most notably in current times with Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign in 2008. The number of female CEOs has also continued to rise, and obviously there are many high-profile female celebrities in Hollywood.

Yet there are a few areas in our society where women still endure a major disadvantage. One of those is the lack of attention they receive when it comes to sports.

Female athletes do not get anywhere near the publicity their male counterparts receive. Yes, there are some famous female sports stars with big names. The Williams sisters of tennis are an example. But do not count out the women athletes who are willing to play sports at the college and professional levels, let alone some of the women’s leagues that actually exist. Perhaps some even could even beat the men in certain competitions.

New York Times? Male athletes would have no problem getting this exposure, but the opportunities for women to receive it seem to be few and far between.

The bottom line is that it should not be this way. Even as a guy, I can comfortably say that females deserve much more attention than they have gotten when it comes to athletics. Many fans do not even realize the number of females who play sports at the college and professional levels, let alone some of the women’s leagues that actually exist. Perhaps some even could even beat the men in certain competitions.

After Gasparilla, go for a run

By Robert Crowley
Staff Writer
rcrowley@mail.usf.edu

When many of us think of Gasparilla, images of crowded parades, flying beads and drunken mayhem quickly come to mind. However, as the festivities in Tampa roll on, one lesser-known and healthier aspect of Gasparilla this year takes place the weekend of Feb. 27 and 28 – the Publix Supermarkets Gasparilla Distance Classic.

The “distance” to which this event refers is not how far you can stumble before falling after a few too many wine spritzers – or juice boxes for those under 21 – it’s how far you are willing to run with other local residents.

Before you throw this article down in a huff, let me offer two motivational tidbits: First, the running events are almost a month after the parade weekend, allowing plenty of time to recover and throw away all those beads. Secondly, even if you are not a serious runner, there are several different distances offered.

The 15K and 5K runs will be held on Saturday, Feb. 27, roughly 3.1 and 9.3 miles respectively. The 15K starts at 7 a.m. and the 5K kicks off at 9:30 a.m.

On Sunday, Feb. 28 the Gasparilla marathon and half marathon relays will take place. These races are about 26 miles and 13.1 miles respectively. Serious runners interested in doing other marathons, your official race times can be used to enter longer races, such as the Boston marathon.

Here are some tips to prepare for the Gasparilla Distance Classic. First, start on a treadmill at the gym at a comfortable pace and see how long you can go. This is an easy way to track how far you can run and set goals to improve. If you detest the treadmill or being inside, put on your iPod with your favorite tunes and some running shoes and go for a jog downtown or along the beach. Keep track of the number of songs you hear, striving to run about a half-mile per song.

Secondly, drink plenty of water before and after you run and stretch your legs afterward. Finally, set small goals for improvement each time you run.

For information on how to register for these events, visit www.tampabayrun.com.