

Destinations

EVENTS

Music, books, comics, shrimp, art al fresco

MARCH 13-14
MISSION, Texas
Never Say Never Music & Arts Festival: Dev, the singer whose voice can be heard in that Far East Movement song “Like a G6” (she also has her own hit, “Dancing in the Dark”) co-headlines this festival, which should appeal to spring breakers. After all, who else has any free time on a Tuesday and Wednesday in March? Dev will appear at the Las Palmas Race Park with star rapper Wiz Khalifa, The Early November, and Asking Alexandria. If you don’t know who those acts are, Google them and then feel hip for a few minutes. And if you are a fan of music festivals, you will know that tickets for this one are pretty cheap: \$40 for Tuesday,

\$50 for Wednesday, \$75 for both. 7509 North Taylor Road. www.nsnfestival.com

MARCH 3-4, 10-11
FORT MYERS, Fla.
Fort Myers Beach Lyons Club Shrimp Festival: The Shrimp Queen is a serious to-do. The festival’s application says, “a one-piece swimsuit is required for the pageant, no cutouts.” It also says, “Trophies and/or prizes will be awarded to the winner of each of the following categories: Queen, First runner-up, Second runner-up, Miss Personality, Miss Congeniality (voted on by participants), and Miss Photogenic (judged on official photo).” Regardless of which Florida woman wins, it should be great people

watching. The queen will be crowned March 10. Get there early to sample shrimp delights. And yes, you may be able to plan this trip to coincide with some Red Sox quality time. Locations and schedule online. www.fortmyersbeachshrimpfestival.com

MARCH 10-11
PHOENIX
Tucson Festival of Books: In an effort to respond to young adults (and adults who read young adult books), this festival has launched a teen blog for discussing their reading and the list of YA authors who will appear at this year’s event, including Aprilynne Pike, who writes the Wings series about a girl who is a “faerie changeling,” and Shelley Coriell

of “Welcome Caller, This Is Chloe.” You can also meet Lynne Avril, the illustrator of the new “Amelia Bedelia” books. [University of Arizona. tucsonfestivalofbooks.org](http://UniversityofArizona.tucsonfestivalofbooks.org)

MARCH 16-18
WINTER PARK, Fla.
Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival: This event is a competition featuring sidewalk art (meaning art displayed outdoors, not chalk on pavement), and it is family-friendly. After looking over works by professionals in a range of mediums from clay to painting, kids can make their own conversation pieces in the Children’s Workshop Village. There will also be music and food — and pretty 2012 posters — for sale. *Central Park. 407-644-7207, www.wpsaf.org*



NEILSON BARNARD/GETTY IMAGES FOR PARK CITY LIVE

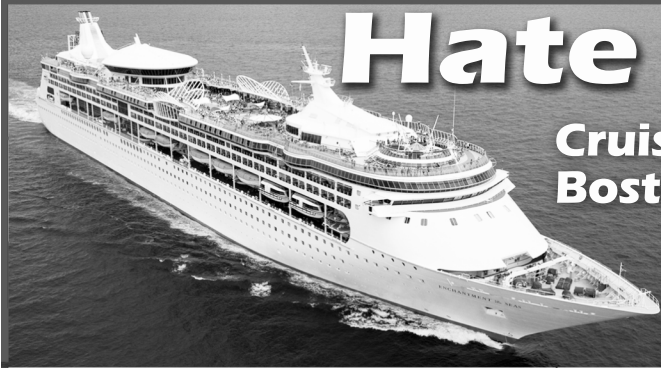
Rapper Wiz Khalifa is one the of headliners at the Never Say Never Music & Arts Festival in Mission, Texas.

to the art of comics is not up yet, but it should draw a list of respected names in the business. Past guests of honor have included Megan Kelso of “Watergate Sue,” comic artist and illustrator Kagan McLeod, and Joe Sacco, a comic artist and journalist. There is usually a stage show and an all-day expo.

Locations vary. olympiacomicsfestival.org

MEREDITH GOLDSTEIN

Events are sometimes canceled, rescheduled, or sold out; check online. [Meredith Goldstein can be reached at \[MeredithGoldstein@globe.com\]\(mailto:MeredithGoldstein@globe.com\)](mailto:MeredithGoldstein@globe.com)



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PLAN AHEAD
JUNE 2
OLYMPIA, Wash.
Olympia Comics Festival: The schedule for this festival devoted

Cards to translate your needs overseas

No one wants to get sick or have medical complications from eating a forbidden food while traveling, but it can be tricky ordering suitable meals when you don’t speak the local language. A new service, called SelectWisely, produces foreign language translation cards that let travelers communicate their food-related allergies or medical issues in clear and simple sentences. Convey your nut allergy in Hungarian, your gluten-free diet in Chinese, or your toddler’s lactose intolerance in Norwegian, for instance. Select from more than 20 cards that can be translated into more than 50 languages, or special order a

card that meets your needs. 888-396-9260, www.selectwisely.com

Spacious, scenic NYC
Not many Manhattan hotel rooms offer 650 square feet of space and a telescope for city-gazing. The new Skyline Suites in New York’s Affinia Dumont hotel offer views including the Chrysler Building and the East River, a 6-foot refractor telescope for spotting landmarks, and a fully equipped kitchen. Ask for a customized map of the city sights. Rates, through March 31, start at \$179 per night, based on double occupancy. 866-246-2203, www.affinia.com/dumont

Test your moxie in Moab
Try out your mental fortitude and your trust in friends, family, or colleagues on a new high ropes course in Moab, Utah. The three-hour course, operated by Adventure Park Moab, includes a 25-foot-long balance beam, a skateboard zip line, and a giant swing, all 40 feet above ground. Then scale a state-of-the-art climbing tower. Book through the Moab Adventure Center (866-904-1163, www.moabadventurecenter.com) for special discounts. Wed-Sun; age 14 and older \$65, 10-13 \$55. 800-435-4393, www.adventureparkmoab.com

KARI BODNARCHUK

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