



Mission

Preserving, promoting, and celebrating the unique cultural heritage of Ybor City and supporting the Ybor City Museum State Park

NEWS BRIEF

It was a fun week for local sports and history fans! We congratulate the Bucs, not only for their Super Bowl win, but for the nationally-recognized history they created during Sunday's game. Along with the Bolts and Rays, how exciting to have three of our teams vie for championships within a five-month period. Ready to move beyond tailgate fare? Try some of the local specialties we are featuring today. Recipes are included but there are plenty of places to buy devil(ed) crab croquettes and giugiukeni, sometimes at the same location.

~ ~ Chantal Ruilova Hevia, President and CEO

Devil Crab or Deviled Crab?



Whether you know it as devil crab or deviled crab, these spicy croquettes are a dish unique to Ybor City much like the Cuban sandwich, and is closely tied to the cigar factories and immigration. It is another example of food fusion that was evident in the earliest

Ybor and West Tampa communities. These croquettes were likely Spanish in origin, but were transformed by the Cuban, Spanish, and Italian communities into the dish known today.

During the cigar factory strike in 1920, factory workers looked for a cheap way to feed themselves and provide for their family. The answer was to use the plentiful supply of crab in the Tampa Bay. Crab meat would be seasoned and wrapped in a dough of breadcrumbs and Cuban bread before being fried. Cheap and easy to eat on the go, some started to sell devil crab, even after the strike ended.

One of the most popular vendors was Francisco Oscar Miranda. Residents in the Ybor City area could buy his deviled crabs, sold from his bike, for 10-15 cents. At one time,

Miranda was a regular fixture outside of Jefferson High School --- the old one on Highland Ave. --- where students could buy Tampa's favorite street food during their lunch breaks. While devil crabs are no longer bought this way, they can be ordered from a number of restaurants around Ybor City and Tampa.

Photo and information from SouthernFoodways.org

Devil Crab Recipe

[Get the Recipe](#)

Photo from Carmine's Ybor City
Recipe from Seabreeze Restaurant



Home Team, Home Win



When the Tampa Bay Bucs beat the Kansas City Chiefs to win the 2021 Super Bowl, a new chapter in Tampa's sports history was created. The Bucs have been playing football since 1976 but Tampa's football history stretches back much farther. In 1926, future Football Hall of Famer Jim Thorpe put together a pickup

team called the Tampa Cardinals to play the Chicago Bears at Plant Field, where the Bears secured a 17-3 victory. In the 1960s, pro-football teams came to Tampa to play exhibition games at the University of Tampa's Phillips field. This 12,000-seat stadium was used for many football games but was too small when larger teams wanted to play in Tampa. The Tampa Stadium, primarily used by colleges and for NFL exhibition games, was built in 1966 and hosted its first game in 1967. The stadium's success encouraged Tampa leaders to seek out its own pro team, leading to the founding of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 1974. By the late '90s, the Bucs had outgrown Tampa Stadium, and Raymond James Stadium was built. The rest is history!

The Ybor City Museum State Park is Open

The Ybor City Museum State Park is again open to the public. To ensure your safety, masks are required to be worn during your visit.

Admissions can be paid by cash or credit card, however you are requested to bring exact

change if you are paying by cash. The "casita" portion of the museum tour is closed due to Covid-19 restrictions but you can enjoy the Museum Garden during your visit. **You can also enquire about renting the Garden, a beautiful 10,000 sq. ft. outdoor space, by [clicking here](#).** It is a unique venue that creates its own ambience for your special event.



Hours of Operation: 9 am - 5 pm Wednesday - Sunday
Admission: \$4 per person, free for children 5 years and younger
1818 E. 9th Avenue, Tampa, FL 33605, 813.247.6323

Thank you to PAUW

For more than a decade, Pan American University Women has supported several local nonprofit organizations including the Ybor City Museum Society, as well as provided annual scholarships to college students. We are grateful for this year's contribution, which PAUW was able to provide even though they were unable to host any of their usual fundraising events. We will use their generous gift to create lesson plans and materials based on *Fernando's Footsteps*, an original story by Tony Carreño.

In the Neighborhood



The Ybor City Museum Society is creating a Buildings Alive! video in collaboration with 10 community partners, whose buildings will be showcased and presented on March 25th during a virtual screening. Today's featured building is the Italian Club, designed by architects M. Leo Elliott and B.C. Bonfoey, who combined Italian, Spanish, and Greek Architecture to create this architectural gem. In the last four weeks, I have been taking Italian language classes, which are held in the club's cantina. What a great place to learn the language... inspiring!

COOKING CORNER



Sesame Seed Cookies "Giugioleni"

Though typically baked around the holidays, are enjoyed year-round in Tampa.

[Get the Recipe](#)

Please Join Us

Member benefits make it easy for you to strengthen your connection to Tampa's roots and experience the unique cultural heritage of Historic Ybor City. Now that the Ybor City Museum State Park is reopening, you can use the free admissions included in your membership. Thank you to our current members, whether you have been part of our family for years or have just joined us. For your convenience, new or current members can [join or renew your membership online.](#)

With Gratitude

History teaches many lessons and gives us a lens to the future. While 2020 was a year to pause and reflect, we have benefitted in many ways as our friends and followers came together to celebrate the landmark events that make Ybor City such a unique community. Thank you who supported our programs and educational activities last year. For those who enjoy this newsletter and learning more about Ybor City's cultural heritage, please consider a donation to support our 2021 programming.

DONATE

The Ybor City Museum Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID No. 59-2274494. While we do not give tax advice, donations are tax deductible to the extent the law allows.

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