Three films were shown last week which are meant to instill a yearning within the hearts of students to change the way we view justice in the world.

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The mission of this event was to inform students of the importance of voting, not only for the presidential candidates, but our state representatives as well. Miniature American flags along with red, white and blue cupcakes painted a patriotic picture of political interest and pride.

Rainy weather didn’t prevent students and faculty alike from taking part in the event. When asked about the significance of youth voting, Jaryll Bridges, a second-year Valencia student said “I feel young adults are our future, therefore when we vote, we are voting for our future.”

West Campus rallies voters for November

By Nick Lawro
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The second annual Constitution Day occurred this Tuesday as students showed up in large numbers to prepare themselves for this November’s election. George P. Bush, son of former Florida governor Jeb Bush, delivered a speech on the importance of voting for young adults. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the student services building patio served as a beacon for voter registration and awareness.

The mission of this event was to inform students of the importance of voting, not only for the presidential candidates, but our state representatives as well. Miniature American flags along with red, white and blue cupcakes painted a patriotic picture of political interest and pride.

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Campus meets healthcare

Lake Nona officially opens its doors to community

By Natasha Tetley
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Valencia students will finally have the chance to get to know Nona.

The college’s inaugural Lake Nona campus celebrated the opening of its flagship building this Thursday evening with a ribbon cutting ceremony preceded by a series of speeches and a meet-and-greet between college and city officials.

Upon arrival, a smiling assemblage of student leaders clad in bright red Valencia polo shirts and glittering bronze name badges, greeted attendees. Leading those leaders was SGA President, and proud Lake Nona student, Paola Santos.

Films give peace a chance

Festival shows movies can make a difference

By Shannon Scheidell
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Three films were shown last week which are meant to instill a yearning within the hearts of students to change the way we view justice in the world.

“In my view, peace is a justice,” said Purna Singh Baraily, chairperson to the Human Rights Film Center in Kathmandu, Nepal and guest speaker for Peace Day.

As we view justice in the world.

— See “Peace Day” on Page 3.
Romney plan in display

Ryan brings campaign message to Central Fla.

By James Tutten
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Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan held a town hall rally at the University of Central Florida on Saturday, Sept. 22, in support of Mitt Romney and in defense of the issues facing the Republican party 45 days before the national presidential election on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

“We can’t afford four more years of the last four years,” said Ryan, in his speech to a crowd primarily comprised of seniors and students.

The large group in attendance gave an overwhelming positive reception to Congressman Ryan throughout his entire speech with no noticeable outburst of heckling during his time on stage.

Ryan used this event to focus on economic issues that he feels reflect on the declining path the country is taking and he referred to a statement that Americans are not better off than they were four years ago when President Obama took office.

Cuts to NASA in recent years and how this has adversely affected the local economy in Central Florida was the first point that Ryan made, addressing the loss of America’s role as the leader in space exploration and mentioning our new reliance on Russia to send astronauts into space.

A majority of the rest of his opening speech was solely focused on the economic issue facing our nation, primarily dealing with the skyrocketing national debt and reliance on foreign countries like China to borrow money to meet our financial obligations.

In a move he is well known for on Capitol Hill, Ryan used examples of graphs and pie charts to show the rate of borrowing and spending over the last 80 years and how the current path we are on is unsustainable.

A crowd of Romney/Ryan supporters applaud as Paul Ryan took the stage Saturday, Sept. 22.

This is a crisis which mirrors the debt crisis seen in Europe and is one that can be prevented if acted upon now, according to Ryan. He is calling our national debt the most predictable crisis we face in this country with a president that doesn’t have any clear solutions to solve.

This sentiment was reflected by members of the audience even before Ryan took the stage.

“Running up the national debt is the number one issue facing this nation, we are adding $10 million per minute in unfunded liabilities and around four and a half billion dollars every day,” said William Breazeal, an Iraq war veteran and colonel in the U.S. Army reserves.

As part of the town hall aspect of this event Ryan soon took questions from the audience, addressing with confidence on every issue, stating numerous figures and examples to further defend his positions.

Several times the issue of retirement benefits and Medicare reform were addressed by Ryan who stuck to his statements in the recent past that Obamacare presents the greatest threat to Medicare.

The day before this rally in Orlando, Ryan was booed at an AARP convention in New Orleans when he attacked the president’s policies located within Obamacare. The crowd at UCF vigorously cheered when he mentioned similar statements about the repeal of Obamacare at Saturday’s rally.

This issue is sure to play an ever present role in all the upcoming debates scheduled to take place throughout the month of October.

“Every point he made was right on the money; first and foremost was what he said about Obamacare, that’s going to destroy my Medicare as well as everyone else if we don’t get it stopped,” said audience member and retiree Pat Annunchani.

One thing that remains certain is with around 40 days left until the upcoming election, both parties will stress the political arguments they feel best reflect their ideology in a presidential race.
Peace day
— Continued from Page 1.
the Thursday, Sept. 20, afternoon show-
ing of “Khaati Suun.”

“Without justice, it’s impossible to
get peace in the world,” said Baraily.
Valencia’s Peace and Justice Initiative
partnered with the Global Film Festival
to bring awareness to the plight of two
women who have worked their entire
lives to attend school — who are being
ridiculed, to this day, for it — in Nepal.

This is the story of “Khaati Suun,” or
“Pure Gold.”

“Our two characters are struggling to
get their education,” said Baraily. “They
are treated as untouchables, so I think
it’s a problem for justice, too.”

Rachel Allen, coordinator of the Ini-
tiative, suggested that there were at least
a few students in the room who could re-
late to the stories of Nabina and Kopila.

No one spoke up.

Nabina’s parents worked for people
in the upper caste, but they never sent
her to school as a child, so she didn’t go.

Her principal tells the audience that,
now at 29, people ask Nabina what there
is to gain by studying.

Jason Wendel, who came with film-
maker Shawn Small, said he and Small
shot a film something similar to “Khaati
Suun” a few years ago.

They both went to South Sudan to
work on a documentary titled “Ru: Wa-
ter is Life.” It’s a story about a young girl
named Ru who travels back and forth to
the one pool of bluish-grey water, four
or five times a day, located a mile or so
outside of town, before a school is erect-
ed some time down the line.

Only then is she able to pursue her
dreams.

“Things like this are really close to
my heart, especially girls in the lower
caste system who feel they need an ed-
ucation — not even to get a better job,”
Wendel said.

Some people innately want to find a
better life for themselves, regardless of
what’s at stake.

This is how Valencia celebrates Inter-
national Peace Day, by advocating the
importance of a college education, creat-
ing empathy for those who work hard all
day long, for the chance to attend school.

“It’s always interesting to see how
we were brought up, in comparison to
different cultures,” said Wendel. “That’s
just so foreign for us.”

Documentary opens eyes

By James Tutton
jtutton@valenciavoice.com

Continuing a tradition of inspiration
through moving cinema, Valencia Col-
lege’s Peace and Justice Initiative part-
nering with the Global Peace Film Fes-
tival, let the fires of peace burn bright
after sharing the personal stories of kind
hearted heroes from around the world.

“I think peace day is a reminder that
we can choose to live peacefully in our
lives today,” said Rachel Allen, a profes-
sor of humanities at East Campus and
one of the main organizer for peace day
events at Valencia.

The peace day events took place
across multiple days and multiple cam-
puses at Valencia including last on
Thursday Sept. 20. The evenings event
was centered around the screening of the
inspirational 2011 documentary film en-
titled “Opening Our Eyes” which looks
Peace film

— Continued from Page 3.

at people working to create a better world for those in need.

The film follows the stories of 11 exceptional individuals that use their time and energy in the service of others that are often overlooked by society as a whole.

There is Maggie Doyne who founded Kopila Valley Children’s Home in Surket, Nepal, an organization that helps underprivileged and or abused children get an education in a safe environment. Another notable subject from the film is Dr. David Mar Naw who founded Where There Is Not A Doctor, that provides desperately needed free medical care to hill-tribe communities in Northern Thailand.

Those in attendance for this film screening were openly moved by the stories of sick children and others facing hardship around the world. This can be jarring to some, but altogether received a warm welcome from attendees that openly expressed their love for its overall message.

“I was struck by the diversity of the students in the room and also the diversity of the subjects in the film,” said Ann Puyana, who taught English as a second language and worked for Valencia College administrations for the last 10 years of her educational career.

To finish off the evenings events students and other volunteers stood in an open field holding lit candles to form a glowing human peace sign to commemorate the message of International Peace Day.

“It was so inspiring seeing so many people around the world helping others, and this was a lovely way of cementing the day in light,” said Penny Villegas.

Peace Day means something different to individuals depending on their political views or ideology. There is certainly a political aspect because it ties in with the United Nations International Day of Peace on Sept. 21, which works to have one day in which all countries of the world go one day without violence and bloodshed. The day was officially started in 1982 and sadly has never been fully realized due to ongoing conflicts and tensions ever present around the world.

So in general the goal of peace day is to help drive home the message of helping others and working to make the world a better place by spreading the ideals of love and compassion for everyone of earth.

To find more information on the Peace and Justice Initiative at Valencia you can visit their website at http://valenciacollege.edu/pji/ or by liking their FaceBook page at http://www.facebook.com/valenciapeaceandjustice for daily updates.
Lake Nona

— Continued from Page 1.

“Right now the campus is blank; students have the opportunity to suggest and take the lead on everything they want to see happening on campus, whether it’s sports or SGA. To see the student body unite is going to be really exciting,” said Santos.

The completed 83,000-square-foot building is the first of four planned for the site. Through its partnership with nearby Medical City, the location aims to focus on math and the sciences. Featuring 18 high-tech smart classrooms, six labs ranging in focus from biotech to chemistry, a shaded inner courtyard, a digital library, full student support services, a café and a bookstore, the campus is ready to welcome its first students.

When speaking of the building’s design, Executive Dean Dr. Michael Bosley said that engineers tried to cultivate a “woodland feel” and a “sense of space.” And according to Bosley, they are already planning a mirror of the building across the current courtyard.

“Think of this building as a big hug that surrounds our students everyday,” said Bosley, with a smile.

“When students walk in they always share that they feel this tranquility within the building,” said Santos in a similar reflection of the building’s character.

The campus, which just opened for business for this current fall semester, is already attracting students. According to Kathleen Plinske, president of both Osceola and Lake Nona campuses, the location has already enrolled upwards of 1500 students.

During the array of speeches, college President Sandy Shugart encouraged a grand vision for the area’s future.

“Rarely in the career of a college president do you get to build in a place that has a real vision for the future,” said Shugart in his speech.

He also praised the environmental sustainability of the building’s design, which is slated to achieve a level 2 Green Globes Certification from a Portland, Ore. based nonprofit, according to a Valencia news release.

“Imagine a place where everything is sustainable. Imagine a place that has the most beautiful town center in Florida by design,” said Shugart.

Speakers in the dedication included Dr. Bosley, President Shugart and Mayor Buddy Dyer. Those in attendance included City Commissioner Jim Gray, senatorial staffers, engineers, college trustees and board members. Immediately following the ribbon cutting, which was repeated multiple times to allow all of the groups involved in the project a chance to cut, were guided tours and science demonstrations.

“The opportunity that students have here is boundless,” said Santos.

Constitution

— Continued from Page 1

Bridges later said “This election is vital to my education because I could possibly lose my Pell Grant if Romney wins.”

George P. Bush and his associates representing the Maverick Political Action Committee (PAC) arrived at 11:30 a.m. in a tour bus wrapped with a graphic which reads “Rollin’ Through Florida.” Reporters from many local news outlets, including the Orlando Sentinel, arrived eager to interview the PAC’s front man, Mr. Bush.

Giving a brief minute speech, Bush touched on the crucial role young adults play in this year’s election. He held the speech particularly short because he didn’t want to hold up students from their next classes.

When asked about the purpose behind this tour, Bush said “Our goal here is to motivate young adults, ages 18 to 24, to vote. Since Nixon lowered the voting age to 18-years-old in 1970 there has been a decline in young men and women showing up to the polls until 2008.”

Giving recognition to President Obama for his impressive ability to reach the younger vote, Bush touched on campaigning in the 21st century. When asked how the tour has been going he said “Fun, real fun, we’ve had a great time interacting with students across Florida. Facebook and Twitter are great ways to connect with the younger voters, we can update pictures and videos of our tour, plus you get instant feedback which is really useful.”

Oct. 4 will be the last day to register to vote in order to participate in the upcoming election. If you have yet to register and would like to, stop by the Student Development office in building one. The process should take no longer than 10 minutes.

For further information, contact Student Government Association President Evan King.

Lake Nona Campus

Address:
12350 Narcoossee Road,
Orlando, FL 32832

Phone number:
407-299-5000

Website:
http://valenciacollege.edu/lakenona/
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In partnership with Valencia College
Athletes run for a ‘Miracle’
Runners gathered for charity

By James Tutten
jtutten@valenciavoice.com

Over 3,500 dedicated supporters and athletes came out to Lake Eola Park in Orlando on Saturday, Sept. 22 to support 14 years of “Miracle Miles” and the inspiring work of the Alexander Center for Neonatology at Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women & Children.

“All we take care of is babies, babies who are sick, babies who need both clinical and intensive care,” said Dr. David Auerbach, the director of the Neonatal Intensive Care (NIC) unit at Winnie Palmer Hospital.

“The babies--many of them born prematurely--need the support we offer to get them through issues of infections, lung diseases, birth defects and a whole scope of other issues,” said Auerbach.

He has worked in Orlando for over 27 years and has partnered over 27 years and has partnered with Dr. Alexander over that time. He has also played a personal role in the yearly “Miracle Miles” events since its inception.

Auerbach has noticed a rise in premature birth over the years with national averages now reaching from 12 to 13 percent of children. The development of new technologies and other medical breakthroughs has allowed for the care of ever smaller babies at an increasing successful rate of treatment.

“The hospital does a lot of good work and people go there because they know they are good with high-risk births,” said runner Diana Campbell. “I know it’s a good cause so I’m happy to support it.”

There were multiple races during Saturday’s event including both a 5 and 15K race, as well as a kid’s fun run. The 5K race wasn’t timed and participants were reminded to check the clock when they crossed the finish line to keep track of their times.

The 15K race (9.3 miles) was timed by radio frequency markers with over 1,600 runners competing for the best times in a multitude of age brackets. The first place overall finisher was Mike Hensley, 26, from Bonita Springs, with an average pace of 5 minutes and 28 seconds per mile and a total time of 50:48.

“I’ve seen so many families here that rely on the work of this hospital, so I’m glad to support an organization like that,” said runner Shelleane Demarese.

The vigorous 5 and 15K races were supported by over 200 volunteers with words of encouragement and refreshing treats along the way. Exasperated runners cooled down and refueled after the races with donated ice treats, fresh fruits and as much water as they could drink.

Runners who didn’t win their age brackets or break their personal records still found pride in supporting a notable cause. Be it first hand experience with sick children or word of mouth, the momentum of support for the Alexander Center for Neonatology shows no signs of slowing down.

More information on Winnie Palmer (NIC) can be found at http://www.trackshack.com/events.
Tweets of the Week

Stephen Colbert @StephenAtHome
Omg Tracy Morgan just passed out on the Emmys!

Funny Tweets @autocorrets
The first status on Facebook in 2013: "Is anyone alive?"
Retweeted 2621 times

College Problems @_collegeproblem
Just starting a paper due tomorrow that I knew about from the syllabus three weeks ago. #collegeproblems

Andy Borowitz @BorowitzReport
Half a billion dollars have been spent on campaign ads so far. It’s a good thing our schools and roads are in great shape or I’d be mad.

CNN Breaking News @cnnbrk
Romney, Obama prep for three head-to-head matchups that will help decide the race. on.cnn.com/ONxuPK

Opinions expressed are those of the Valencia Voice, its staff members and contributors, and are not necessarily those of Valencia College, its staff, faculty, or student body.
iPhone 5 makes debut

Apple’s newest device is bigger, superior and here

By Lawrence Laguna
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The most valuable company in the world has released its newest toy to the market, the iPhone 5.

There are nearly a million pre-orders online for the newest device.

The 5 is the next upgrade for Apple since its previous release of the iPhone 4S.

For many people and myself it’s about either keeping the phone they have or upgrading to the latest technology. If you are looking for something fresh and unique with the new device, you will get it here.

The iPhone 5 is the first iPhone to have a bigger display from its earlier predecessors, which makes all functions on the phone greater. With the 4-inch display anything from watching videos to surfing the web is appreciated at great length.

This new up scale model gives the phone a taller, slimmer and lighter look which had many customers worrying if the phone would be too big to fit in their hand. With a first hand experience, the size difference fits just as comfortably as the smaller design.

With the larger screen users are now allowed to use a feature called “panorama,” which is a photo taking specification. “Panorama” now offers the option to capture the scenery that wouldn’t fit in the specs of the view finder.

All that is needed is for you to press the capture button and slowly move your phone across the landscape you are viewing and just like that you have a 360-degree view of what you just shot.

Siri is back and better than before. Many deemed her useless for certain things and claimed difficulty with voice detection, but now she’s been upgraded.

The voice-activating feature can turn all those negatives from before into positives and give you much more. Siri is now able to immediately give you sports scores, make restaurant reservations and give you turn-by-turn map navigation.

Another great upgrade is the newly added “earpods.” These are Apple’s unique new headphones that claim to fit everyone’s ears dimensionally, and I believe they have succeeded.

The idea was to create headphones that would give you complete audio and no outside noise giving you the ultimate experience of the music or conversation you are listening to.

These “earpods” don’t fall or become loose in yours ears, which was a big upgrade from the previous earbuds. The microphone is also enhanced so your voice is implemented clearly into your correspondent’s speaker on the other line.

The new speeds on the iPhone 5 are immense. LTE or 4G is on another level compared to most wi-fi spots anywhere. Every tap from email to a link on safari to watching a video clip transitions so fast it gets us thinking if these speeds can get any faster.

You can forget about the wi-fi hotspot location you are currently using because the lightning speeds of the LTE will have you turning it on frequently.

If there’s any downside to this new device it would be the charger. The new “lightning” charger is different than any other iPhone charger in size, shape and specs. It’s reversible, which is a positive, and it charges your device very quickly as well.

Along with the charger, the headphone jack is now right next to it meaning better access for your new “earpods,” allowing easy plug and pocket placement.

Overall, Apple’s redesigned iPhone 5 is worth the buy if you are looking for something state-of-the-art.
Jazzing it up

Professor pursues music passion

By Danny Morales
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Music Appreciation professor, Jarritt Sheel, does much more than teach at Valencia College. He is also the frontman and trumpet player for a local jazz band titled “The BLU-TET.”

Sheel teaches music appreciation and history of jazz and rock on the east campus and the man knows his jazz.

He got together with local jazz artists Derek Engstrom, Bryan Mays, Derrick Harris and John Toney over three years ago to form the jazz/blues band.

Sheel has been playing music for 21 years. He first fell in love with jazz when he saw the movie “Mo’ Better Blues” by Spike Lee. Sheel says, “That was pretty much the beginning of it.”

While trumpet is “the thing I play the best,” he also plays piano. He can sing too.

Sheel teaches music appreciation and when they are on stage together they always have fun.

They play three sets of five songs each, giving guests time to mingle for a while in between sets.

While most of the bands songs don’t have words, Sheel still has to interact with the audience in between songs and he even goes as far as to say goodbye to them when they are leaving. After the show, jazz enthusiast Bonnie Cochran said, “they are phenomenal.”

“The BLU-TET” will be performing next on Oct. 3, at Dr. P. Phillips Park from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and again on Oct. 6, at the Marching Arts Festival in Avalon Park from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Shaking up Shakespeare

Orlando theatre puts modern twist on classic plays

By Eileen Ludwig
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Condensing 37 of Shakespeare’s comedies, histories, and tragedies into less than two hours creates a whirlwind of activity resulting in laughter in “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged).”

There are only three actors throughout the play, who change characters as quickly as they change clothes using current events to characterize meanings of plays written centuries ago.

When the actors are on stage, they are close to you. Orlando Shakespeare Theater is a small, intimate theatre setting, easily crossing the barrier of the stage and audience with various parts providing interaction with the audience.

The original themes present in the works of Shakespeare are hidden within the lines and characters’ antics while using modern day props of blown up water toys.

As they quickly change characters with a stream of words incredibly memorized for long dialogues while acting and interacting, audience members cannot help but laugh at the absurdity.

Philip Nolan, a familiar face from the former Comedy Warehouse improv theatre at Pleasure Island, is a master of disguise whose characters effortlessly play multiple personas.

Joined by Christopher Patrick Mullin, an accomplished Shakespearean actor, he brings wisdom and humor to the play. Brad Deplanche simply plays both men and women on the stage, just as women were not allowed on stage in Shakespeare’s time.

These three actors are exceptionally talented and creative in their delivery.

Leslie Kinnaird said she enjoyed “a lot of the play because of the satire. Good overall view of the Works of Shakespeare included witty connections to current events.”

Beth Spencer said, “The play was fun because the actors know the stories. The actors lighten them up with the enormous amount of dialogue.”

Student pricing offers many options. Reduced prices go for $20 on select Fridays for those under 30 or students may call ahead for details. There is also an opportunity to rush during the 30 minutes before the play starts.

Transfusion of former sounds

Linkin Park personalizes new record

By Lawrence Laguna
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Strong vocals, intelligent lyrics and different elements are a few things to expect from Linkin Park’s new album “Living Things.” The hybrid genre that they’ve created has blended with new sounds in order to create an extraordinary experience.

“My reaction was honestly surprised,” said long-time Linkin Park fan Peter Ofray. “It started out almost like an old Linkin Park album, but then some of the tracks just jump at you and punch you in the face, I loved that.”

The new album is the band’s fifth studio album and contains 12 new tracks just like their first album “Hybrid Theory,” including a traditional instrumental that they’ve done consistently with all their albums.

The record as a whole is a masterpiece, delivering all sorts of mixed sounds from hard-hitting rock to soft medleys. Creating a blend of these genres gives a stability and balance to the album.

“Right from the outset the first track comes out in full force, displaying the band’s direction and love of their favorite genres. It has a traditional balance of what a Linkin Park song consists of: rap verses from vocalist Mike Shinoda, strong vocals from Chester Bennington and electronic beats that complete the song.”

As the album continues, you get the sense that each song has its own unique vibe.

“I think it sounds perfect. You can play it to a group of people who like different kinds of music and there is something there for everyone,” said Ofray. “All the songs come together extraordinarily well to provide the most satisfying Linkin Park experience to date.”

None of the tracks on this album are weak. Each have the potential to become singles.

There are songs that you can categorize as aggressive and some as delicate. “Lies Greed Misery” would be an example of a forceful track compared to the fragile medley of “Roads Untraveled.”

The band has called the record a personal album, meaning that the subject matter is things we encounter personally on a daily basis.

As in the tracks “Powerless” and “I’ll Be Gone,” the lyrics show a duality of meaning from personal relationships to our own imprint of the world.

The debut single “Burn It Down,” you grasp the message that the band is gathering all that they have collected throughout the years and breaking it back down.

Overall, the direction of this album is a success and is appreciated by both old and new Park fans alike. If you are looking for something new to listen to, the album “Living Things” is definitely worth listening to.
A new kind of sibling rivalry

Fox brings more laughs to Tuesday

By Jaconia Toyloy
jtoyloy@valenciavoice.com

“Ben and Kate” is a new comedy about a young mother named Kate, portrayed by actress Dakota Johnson, who has spent the last few years raising her precocious 5-year old daughter Maddie. Having been out of touch with the dating scene during that time, the premiere episode starts with her coming back home with George, her first successful relationship. She sees stars and predicts a long overdue make-out session.

Unfortunately, that happens to be the same night when her unpredictable and innocently obnoxious older brother Ben, played by actor Nat Faxon, turns up in her house. The kicker: he’s in a hockey mask. Ben quickly decides that he doesn’t like Kate’s date and is skeptical of him for the entire episode.

Ben has problems of his own. His ex-girlfriend has something to tell him, and instead of calling her like a normal person, he takes Maddie along on a stake-out in front of the unsuspecting ex’s house. Admiring his ex in her all-white ensemble, he realizes he is losing her to matrimony, and subsequently panics. While Ben conjures ill-advised plans to crash her upcoming wedding, Kate is trying to figure out how she can appeal to George.

That’s where BJ steps in, a hilarious friend portrayed by actress Lucy Punch, who demonstrates for Kate such tactics as bringing attention to your mouth in an attempt to increase sexual appeal. The show is also supported by Ben and Kate’s friend, Tomm, as acted by actor Echo Kellum, who has an unrelenting crush on Kate.

The show’s feel-good factor is that the siblings and best friends always are there for one another, and they help each other through their blunders.

Though “Ben and Kate” is engaging, sometimes the laughs feel a little forced. The formula for the show would work brilliantly if Ben’s character weren’t so over the top. His extremely reckless antics are dripping with implausibility try-hard clumsiness. They’re almost begging for laughs from viewers.

The basis for the show is enough. Kate is self-conscious, cute and clumsy enough to make her relatable and amusing to watch; you really do want to see more. The idea of the sweet silly brother is sufficient enough for laughs without having to resort to slapstick.

According to Hulu’s comment board, viewers would like to see some toning down of Ben’s character before Fox will have the hit-comedy they are striving for.

Sequel comes to Orlando

“Blinding Knife” author brings third book spoilers

By Kara Boyt
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Brent Weeks released “The Blinding Knife” on Sept. 11, the second book in his newest “Lightbringer” series. The tour began immediately upon release in Beaverton, Ore. and continues as he travels through 10 states. He and his wife, Kristi, will enjoy a relaxing two-day vacation before they’re on tour in the U.K. until Oct. 2.

Weeks made his ninth stop in Orlando, Fla. on Wednesday, Sept. 19. After being introduced by a pirate, Mr. Week took the stand behind a wooden podium and asked the crowd to please refrain from throwing their underwear at him. The audience laughed enthusiastically.

Boredom, it seems, was not on the menu. After a short talk, he read a chapter from the next installment of the “Lightbringer” series, “The Blood Mirror,” which Weeks said is only “tentatively named.”

In the Q-and-A, Weeks told us that after he finishes the fourth and final “Lightbringer” book, he plans on writing five to six more books in his “Night Angel” series. The crowd was visibly excited by this news. With only a total of five books currently published, Weeks has already earned die-hard fans such as Sean Bromund, who drove three hours from Baymont Point, sold his Wii and borrowed money to get to the store to meet Weeks. Perhaps the reason Weeks has been able to evoke such devotion is due to his extensive, two-part advice column to his fans, where he writes encouraging and insightful advice to aspiring authors.

Cindy Marihugh admits she’s not an avid reader, but she claims Weeks’ writing is different.

“You become enraptured in it. You don’t want to put it down,” she said.

Every shadow hides a secret...

The Blinding Knife

BRENT WEEKS

New York Times bestselling author of THE BLACK PRISM

“Blinding Knife” is the second book in “The Lightbringer Trilogy” by Brent Weeks.
Film brings double reunion

Anytown movie about anytown H.S.

By Brittany Rose
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“10 Years” is a story about a group of late 20-somethings who gather together in their hometown for their 10 year high school reunion. From the guys who never really grew up to the high school sweetheart who never made it work out to the ones who got married and later couldn’t stand each other, this film plays out every circumstance that one could expect to see at their high school reunion.

While this film illustrates several story lines within a much larger story line, it doesn’t leave the audience with a sense of the fact that it was planned to be that way. It is certainly not in the same category as those holiday films where the stories always seem to be going in strange directions, only for it to unrealistically end up going in the predictable direction.

The stories are all very realistic. There are several characters are easy to relate to and easily compared with someone that they used to know in high school, whether it be the bully or the girl whose life isn’t as great as it could be. That universal familiarity is what Jamie Linden, writer and director of the film, had been aiming for in regard to both the characters and the setting.

“Although it is Lake Howell High School, and they go to Pretzels afterward, and it very much mirrors Scott and my reunion here in Orlando, I didn’t want to say it was Orlando so that it could be suburbia of anywhere,” said Linden, who actually attended Lake Howell High School with cast member Scott Porter.

“I think the challenges that people go through out of high school or college or ten years out of high school are the same to some degree whether you’re from San Diego or Orlando or anywhere. I wanted to make it as inclusive as possible.”

The film has a strong sense of camaraderie, which is to be expected with an ensemble cast filled with people who have worked together before. Channing Tatum and Jenna Dewan-Tatum, who play a couple in the film, are married in real life; Channing Tatum and Porter worked together on Linden’s last film, “Dear John”; Kate Mara, Anthony Mackie and Brian Geraghty have also worked together on one of Linden’s previous films, “We Are Marshall,” and several other cast members had had some kind of working or personal relationship before “10 Years” was ever filmed.

This was something that was done intentionally, creating a sense of obvious chemistry, familiarity for the audience.

“I wrote all of those parts specifically for those actors, and that was kind of the point of the whole movie. We would collaborate and the script would be really loose,” said Linden. “It’s all one degree of separation, and everyone kind of knows each other, so we wanted the chance to get everybody into a room and see what happens.”

Just as the sense of reunion and relation was meant to satisfy the audience, it helped the cast with their performances as well.

“Since we were doing it chronologically, there had to be a certain amount of trust and support, and since it was about a 10 year reunion, we figured that it would be best if it were full of people who were actually familiar with each other, and we could trust. Even if it were unspoken, you could get a sense that they had known each other before,” said Porter.

“The level of chemistry and comfort that we felt with each other was really a necessity.”

All of these aspects - the chemistry, the familiarity and the fact that so many of these things were made universal to anyone - really make the movie enjoyable. The audience, whether few or many years out of high school, is able to attach each character to a friend or acquaintance from their own high school experience.

It’s always pleasant to watch a fun-filled film about friends gathering together only to find yourself pointing at the screen and saying something to the effect of “that character is just like so and so!”

Scott Porter on “Hart of Dixie”

“With Hart of Dixie, I wanted to do something light and funny, and I mainly signed on with the show because of Rachel Bilson. The Rachel Bilson of it all showed me that, hey, this could be a really fun and quirky show because that’s how I see her.”

What can you tell us about what is coming up on Hart of Dixie?

“I can tell you that fans of the show, especially fans of Wade and Zoe, are going to be happy right from the character. My character, George, is going to go through a time of trying to find himself as a single adult. We don’t drag anything out from the fall out of the first season. We’ll very quickly cut to everything that happened. It’s kind of realistic too.

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“The Master” proves itself dark, complex

Phoenix returns to film from ashes of meltdown

By Nick Lawro
nlawro@valenciavoice.com

Writer and Director Paul Thomas Anderson generates an entertaining, yet eerie depiction of a cult in the early 1950s in the new movie, “The Master.” As the director of movies such as “There Will Be Blood” and “Boogie Nights,” Anderson brings out the best in both leading actors Philip Seymour Hoffman and Joaquin Phoenix in this visually stunning film.

The opening scene of this thought provoking movie depicts churning water which is later shown as the wake of two different ships. Organic, vibrant colors unknowingly put you in a trance as the film illustrates various areas of California including post-World War II San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Freddie Quell, portrayed by actor Joaquin Phoenix, is a troubled and mentally disturbed war veteran returning from the war in the Pacific and is wandering from job to job. Foreshadowed alcoholism and sexual frustration paint the picture of a drifter rendered emotionally unstable from his time at sea.

Upon intentionally losing his job as a portrait photographer, he tries working on a farm. His stay there is short lived when he is accused of poisoning a coworker. Quell concocts moonshine from various household and mechanical chemicals which he consumes in an unsettling fashion. Upon losing his job on the farm, he drunkenly stumbles upon a docked yacht which is commanded by Lancaster Dodd, portrayed by actor Philip Seymour Hoffman.

Dodd, a charismatic, well spoken leader of a blossoming cult called the Cause, takes Quell in and offers him a free self evaluation. From then on Quell and Dodd build an unlikely relationship founded on Dodd’s growing interest in Quell’s “potion.” The elegant yet ominous soundtrack, composed by Radiohead’s lead guitarist, Johnny Greenwood, along with the artfully crafted cinematography (filmed in 70mm) paints an audio and visual masterpiece.

As Quell begins to understand the ways of the Cause and their practices he becomes blindly obedient to its demands amid occasional talk of fraud.

Hoffman and Phoenix put on brilliant performances; each character shining in their own light. Their odd, unstable, codependent relationship has its highs and lows, with both as equally gripping and unpredictable.

This dark film is easy to appreciate on many different aspects, guaranteed to have you leaving the theater in incessant thought.

“The Master” proves itself dark, complex

Box Office

“End of Watch”
Rated: R
This Weekend: $13,152,683
Total Gross: $13,152,683

“House at the End of the Street”
Rated: PG-13
This Weekend: $13,000,000
Total Gross: $13,000,000

“Trouble with the Curve”
Rated: PG-13
This Weekend: $12,140,000
Total Gross: $12,140,000

Opening Sept. 28
“Looper”
Rated: R
Running Time: 118 mins.
Genre: Sci-Fi Action
Director: Rian Johnson
Starring: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Bruce Willis and Emily Blunt

“Pitch Perfect”
Rated: PG-13
Running Time: 112 mins.
Genre: Comedy/Music
Director: Jason Moore
Starring: Anna Kendrick, Brittany Snow and Rebel Wilson
Tampa volleyball beats Rollins Tars in three sets

Spartans begin SSC play thrashing the Tars

By Robert Van Deering
rvandeering@valenciavoice.com

WINTER PARK, Fla. -- The University of Tampa Spartans Women's Volleyball team ended up winning all three sets against Rollins, Friday night. They conquered the first set 25-13, the second set 25-19 and the third set 25-14.

Ranked No.7 in the nation, Tampa showed its dominance on offense and defense. Tampa out-blocked Rollins 9 to 3 in total blocks in the three sets combined. Sindee Snow, head coach of the Rollins team said, “We have to play better against a team of that quality.”

“We had three players out including our All-American,” added Snow. Rollins and Tampa started off strong to tie the score at 3 a piece in the first set. Tampa made a 4-0 run to take the lead 8-3 and they never looked back. Rollins battled back a little scoring 4 more points. They had until the last time out to stop Tampa’s run but it was futile. At the second time out in the first set, it looked like the rough score was 16-7 Tampa over Rollins.

The second set was much tighter. Early on, the set went back and forth until Rollins looked like they were showing momentum. Rollin’s answered Tampa’s 4-0 runs with one of their own to take the lead 11-10 and forced Tampa to call a timeout.

Following the timeout Tampa made a dash to 15-11. Rollins cut the lead to 3 when the score was 19-16, but Rollins squandered the chance to win the second set. Tampa won the second set 25-19 in a close set. Rollins seemed lackadaisical in the third set where they had to win to extend the game.

Tampa cruised to an opening lead in the third set 10-4 with the help of two 4-0 scoring runs. Tampa really wasn’t threatened in the third set as Rollins wasn’t even close as the set finished 25-14. Through the sets, whenever Tampa made a run, Rollins had no answer for them.

Head Coach Chris Catanach said, “Best game we played so far.”

“We haven’t played a home game yet because of the RNC and reconstruction of our stadium.”

(HAbove) Rollins womens Volleyball team prepare before going against Tampa. (Right) Collyn Welsh prepares her serve to commence SSC play