



Valencia remembers victims  
Flag memorial helps  
commemorate the fallen

4

“Of Mice and Men”  
Orlando brings to life  
American classic play

13



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James Tutton / Valencia Voice

Polynesian dancers performing for students during the “Week of Welcome” at Valencia’s West Campus.

## Valencia welcomes students Fall semester kicks off with grass skirts, coconuts

By Felicia Roopchand  
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“Aloha!” was the first word that came to mind when attending the Sept. 4 event for Valencia Colleges’ West Campus “Week of Welcome.” The Hawaiian theme brought out various clubs and activities to promote themselves at the SSB Patio.

“I like the idea of a Hawaiian theme because of the welcoming feel to it. We

want to welcome the Valencia students back,” said Marsha Clark, student development advisor and one of the main people in charge of hosting the event.

There were several performances to go along with the theme of the event, including hula dancers, who taught some of our own Valencia students some of their moves, basket weavers, who wove not only baskets but braided headbands

— See “Welcome back” on page 2

## Obama makes Kissimmee stop



Inocencio Correa/ Valencia Voice

President Obama points to members of “Steelworkers for Obama” amidst a sea of forward signs as the president discusses jobs in America.

See “Obama makes his case after convention bounce” on Page 2.



## Welcome back

— Continued from Page 1  
made out of palm tree leaves, and fire dancers, who seemed to be a big hit with both the faculty and students.

Although the students were drawn in by the entertainment, they stayed because of the clubs. Various tables were set up, each run by a different Valencia program or organization.

"It gives students an opportunity to come out and see what kind of programs we have out there available for them and how they can work [those programs] to their advantage," said Evan King, president of the Student Government Association's (SGA) West Campus chapter.

There was free food at the event, but in order to get the food, the students had to get a stamp card and get stamped from whichever booths they visited. Students were not only fed food, but also useful information.

Some of the clubs that were there included Valencia Volunteers and the SGA. The Peer Educators were there promoting Valencia's new smoke-free campus policy. The Study Abroad program had its own table as well.

"I definitely wanted to check that out because they're going to London over spring break this year, so I think that would be pretty cool to go to," said King. "We have events a lot to keep [the students'] eyes open. We got free food, free popcorn, free snow cones, so come on out!"

# Obama makes his case after convention bounce

## President talks energy and jobs to supporters

By Marianella Zapata Noriega  
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Armed with umbrellas, tents, camping chairs and various other devices designed to weather long lines, throngs of people eagerly awaiting the arrival of President Barack Obama crowded the streets of downtown Kissimmee on Saturday, Sept. 8.

Though doors weren't set to open until 2 p.m., supporters arrived bright and early in an attempt to get close to the president. He was anticipated to arrive by 4:15 p.m.

The front of the line included St. Cloud residents Tony and Evelyn Castro, who brought their own "line survival" kit and set up camp at 10 p.m. the prior evening. As their "Hispanics for Obama" sign implied, they were ready to show that Osceola County's large hispanic and latino population stood in support of the President.

"We brought peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, cookies, apple juice and water" for the wait, said Mr. Castro. "Florida is a critical state, the president needs this state."

Hundreds of volunteers across Osceola County, including Mr. and Mrs. Castro, have set up events all over the county in order to secure votes for the president come November.

As the president's arrival drew closer, the crowd's enthusiasm increased and even the dry heat could not put a damper

on the chanting of "four more years."

During the wait, speeches were delivered by Senator Bill Nelson along with prominent community leaders and organizers from the Obama for America campaign.

Viviana Margarita Janer, an accountant and the first person in her family to graduate college, introduced President Obama and urged the city's large hispanic population to vote.

"When you put the 'I voted' sticker on, you're going to feel great pride knowing that you gave this man, this great leader, four more years to finish what he started," said Janer during her speech.

Following her speech, the president took the stage. For his opening, President Obama recalled the Democratic National Convention and expressed his thanks to the people of Charlotte, N.C. for "throwing a great party."

He also reminded voters of Michelle Obama's speech last Tuesday, Sept. 4.

"Michelle ... what can I say? She was Amazing," said President Obama. "For the young men out there who are not yet married, just give you a tip. You're trying to improve your gene pool, so you marry somebody who is superior to you ... That way you end up with some good-looking kids, smart, talented."

The president also praised former president Bill Clinton for his speech at the convention.

"President Clinton, he made the case as well as anybody could," said President Obama. "Somebody tweeted after



Inocencio Correa / Valencia Voice

President Obama embraces 'dreamer' before taking the stage at the Kissimmee Civic Center.

he spoke - they said, somebody needs to appoint him secretary of explaining stuff. Secretary of explaining stuff - I love that."

For the remainder of his 36-minute speech, President Obama divided his time six-fold, making a point to talk about job creation, energy efficiency, education, the economy, Medicare and the military.

On jobs the president talked about the need to create manufacturing jobs in America, and to start bringing American companies back to the U.S. for production.

"You can go along with the plan you heard in Tampa and give tax breaks to corporations that are shipping jobs overseas.

Or we can start giving more tax breaks to companies that are opening new plants and training new workers and creating new jobs here in Florida, in Kissimmee, here in the United States of America."

As for energy the president stressed the need to become energy independent and the need to invest in wind, solar and clear coal energy. His plan he says will cut the United States oil imports in half by 2012.

"Today, the United States is less dependent on foreign oil than at any time in the last two decades," said President Obama. "So we've made progress. And

— See "Obama" on Page 3



# Obama

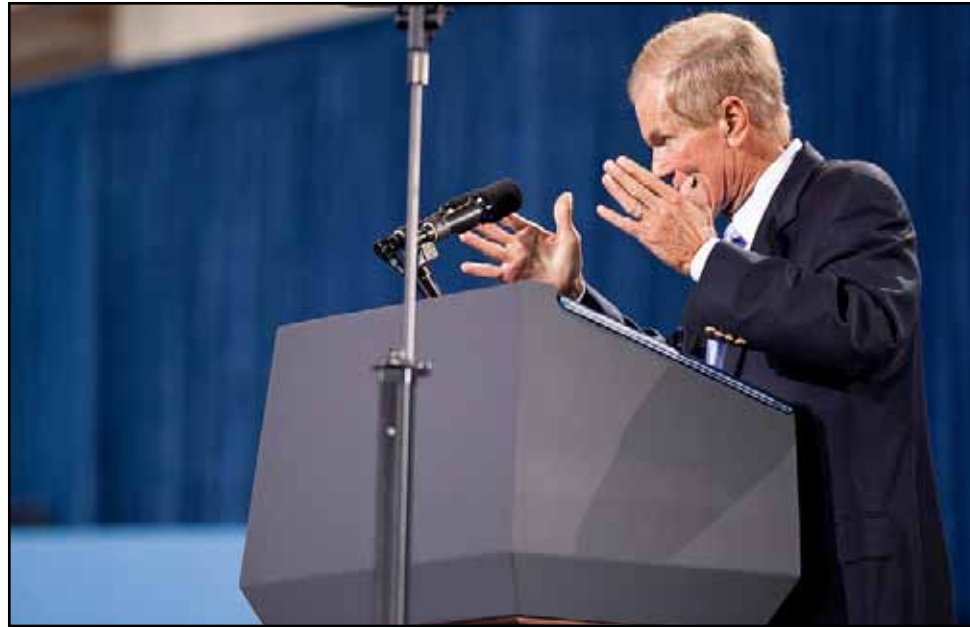
— Continued from Page 2.  
now, the big idea coming out of Tampa was to reverse the progress we've made. So unlike my opponent, I'm not going to let oil companies write this country's energy plan."

On education, he spoke on exercising new standards for teaching and learning that will help schools make gains in math and reading. In order to create better standards for schools, the president has said his plan includes the recruitment and training of 100,000 math and science teachers.

"Now, you've got a choice. We can reserve some of those things that we've done. Or we can decide that in the United States of America, no child should have their dream deferred because of an overcrowded classroom," he stated.

Relating to economics, the president focussed on his plan to reduce the deficit responsibly and helping the financial system by giving back to the middle class.

"If you give a teacher or a construction worker or a receptionist, just working folks — if you give them a little more money, what do they do?," the president asked the crowd who enthusiastically answer "spend it." "And if they spend it, then businesses have more customers, then businesses make more profits, then



Inocencio Correa / Valencia Voice  
Bill Nelson speaks Florida politics to the crowd of President Obama supporters.

the businesses say let's build another plant and let's hire more workers. Now everything gets rolling in a positive direction."

The president, although he did not lay out a plan for Medicare, he did answer back to the reports that a Romney administration would turn Medicare into a voucher program.

His final talking point was the military, promising that as long as he is Commander-in-chief, the United States "will sustain the strongest military the world has ever know."

"When our troops take off the uniform, we will serve them as well as they've served America," said President Obama. "Nobody who fights for this country should ever have to fight for a job or a roof over their heads when they come home."

President Obama finished his speech by asking people to put their trust on his policies and give him the chance to continue with his plan to bring back America to the top.

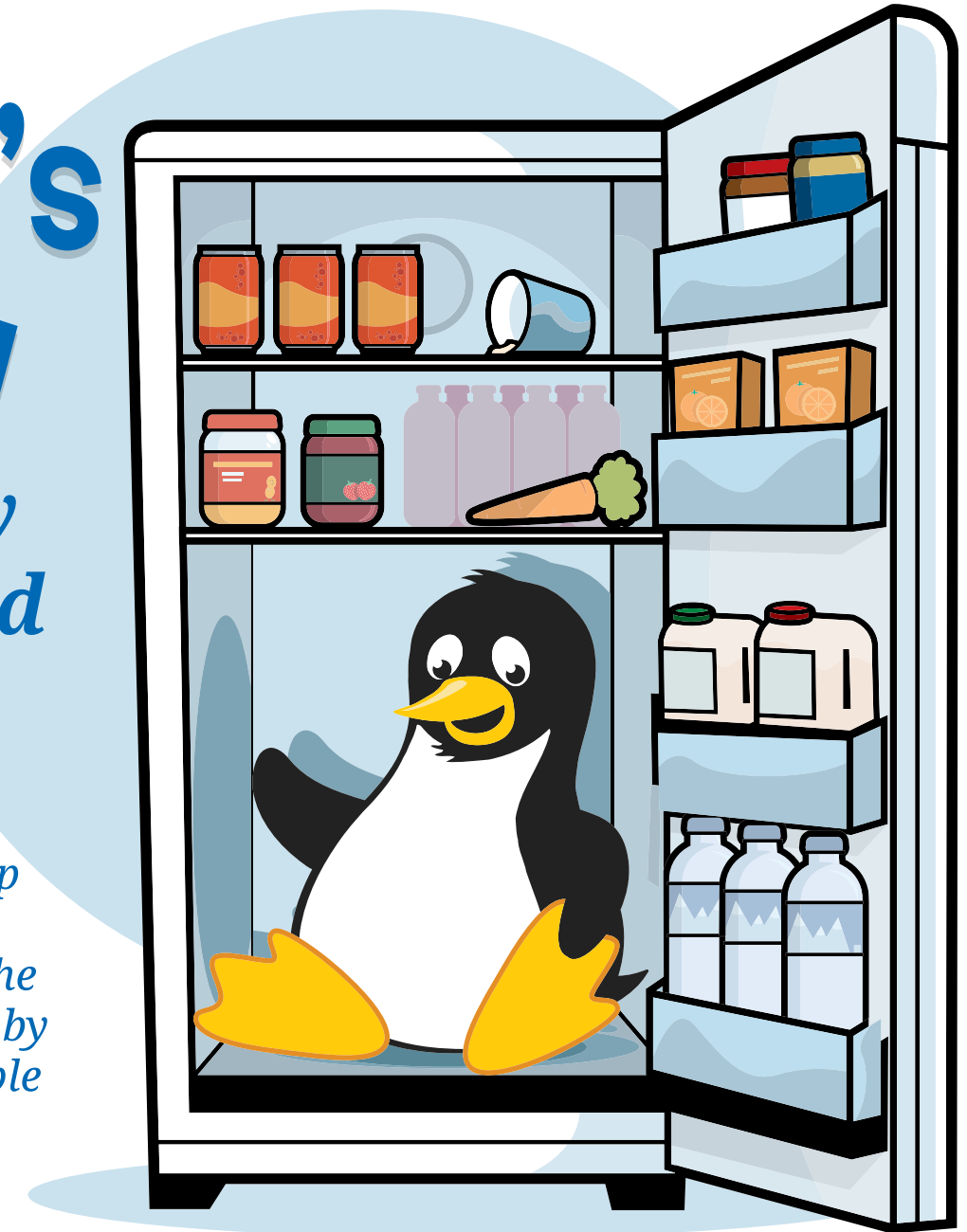
"I'm talking to you. Only you have the power to move us forward, but that depends on you using that power. I'm asking for your help," said President Obama. "I'm asking for your vote. I'm asking you to make phone calls. I'm asking you to knock on some doors. I'm asking you to talk to your neighbors and talk to your friends and talk to your coworkers. I'm asking you to stand up. I'm asking you to be heard."

An estimated 3,000 people were in attendance at the Kissimmee Civic Center where the president spoke.

## Pooky's Pantry

*The pantry is FREE and open to all students.*

*Our mission is to help address the need to stop hunger within the Valencia community by making non perishable food available to homeless and/or hungry students.*



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The Student Development  
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**Requirements:**  
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# Valencia remembers victims while honoring heroes of 9/11

## Flag memorial helps commemorate the fallen

By Danny Morales  
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It was a sight to see on Tuesday afternoon at the Valencia College Osceola Campus where 2977 flags covered much of the grass area behind building 2 and even stretched well past the clock tower. The flags weren't only American either, there were over 90 different nations flags represented in the display.

Volunteers had been working on the flag display since last week, in preparation for the 9/11 memorial ceremony. The memorial which was put together by Valencia College and the Rotary Club of Lake Nona; along with the help of various other sponsors, was not only meant to remember those who perished on Sept. 11, 2001, but to also honor our first responders.

The Osceola campus was full of servicemen from all branches of the military, local police, firefighters and EMTs. The main entrance by the clock tower featured an array of service vehicles highlighted by two fire trucks hoisting a giant American flag.

After the Denn John Middle School choir finished singing God Bless America, a moment of silence was asked for those in attendance to honor the fallen during 9/11.

Dr. Kathleen Plinkse, president of Va-



Robert Vandearing / Valencia Voice

2977 flags were displayed at Valencia's Osceola Campus in honor of those who perished on 9/11 and first responders, the flags not only represented the United States but over 90 other countries.

lencia's Osceola Campus, welcomed the local emergency first responders, who got a standing ovation from the crowd. Dr. Plinkse got the idea for the memorial when she saw a similar flag display at Pepperdine University. That's when she says, "I finally saw the magnitude of 9/11."

Dr. Plinske spoke to the crowd, and again thanked the first responders and volunteers for making the memorial possible. She also announced that with the extra funds raised by the Rotary Club for the flag display, they will be starting a scholarship fund for current emergency responders wanting to continue their education.

Plinske spoke on the flags and what they meant, saying "Each flag represents a person killed that day," adding later

"Each flag represents a family in pain." Out of the 2977 flags, almost 300 are representing someone from outside the United States, flags ranged from Canada to Japan and in between.

One of the other countries represented was Cuba, and next to that flag stood Professor Oscar Cuan, who himself is Cuban-American. When asked what he thought when he saw both of his nationalities in the flag display, Cuan said "I remembered the magnitude and impact didn't just affect us here."

Colonel Edward McHale gave a choked up speech honoring first responders, saying "we are privileged to have these people in our lives." Colonel McHale who said first responders "show we care

about each other as a community." Also added that first responders "help us keep our promises to our loved ones."

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of three wreaths, one representing firefighters and EMTs, another representing citizens and the last representing law enforcement. It was explained that there is tradition in the ringing of a bell, it either started the work day, or signaled the completion of the job. While three rings declared the end of one's duties. The bell was rang three times for each wreath, nine times in all. Following the ringing of the bell, trumpets and bagpipes begin to play, leading to the end of the ceremony.

Students showed up after and before

their classes to catch a glimpses of the ceremony, some even watched from the second floor of buildings one and two.

Ean Amiot was one Valencia student who took some time just looking at all the flags, he said it makes him think about "how many nationalities were affected, not just America." Amiot was just ten years old on September 11, 2001, but he remembers the day quite well.

This was the first year Osceola campus has done something of this magnitude for 9/11, and for retired Air Force veteran Efrain Gonzalez, he hopes it's not the last either. "The college did a fantastic job setting this up. Time heals the wounds, but the key must always be remember." said Gonzalez.



# Valencia to celebrate new campus opening

## New college location brings in new partnership

By Natasha Tetley  
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The Valencia family is set to get a whole lot bigger in the fall of 2012.

This is the flagship semester for the fifth Valencia campus located at Lake Nona Medical City. Boasting 18 high-tech classrooms, two computer labs, six state-of-the-art science labs, a full learning support service system, a library and even a bookstore and café, the campus is a strong addition to the burgeoning Lake Nona area.

The premier building is the first of a

planned four that will form the Lake Nona campus cluster. It currently commands three stories and 83,000 square-feet of area.

"The Lake Nona campus was built in the spirit of collaboration and innovation. Being a partner with Medical City is important," says Dr. Michael Bosley, executive dean to the Lake Nona Campus.

The campus will focus heavily on science and mathematics and aims to utilize its valuable partnership with Lake Nona Medical City to prepare students for related careers.

"Our location next to Medical City will allow us to develop exciting opportunities for our students, both while at Valencia and beyond," says professor of biology Dr. Kristiann Dougherty. "Our small, but tight knit faculty and staff, provide a supportive environment in which to work. And I can't say enough about the wonderful new building and its great features, including six science labs — a science faculty's dream."

Predating the new campus was a partnership with Lake Nona High School that offered Dual-Enrollment and college-level courses to its students through the Collegiate Academy. Prior to the creation of the full campus, Valencia also offered classes to the general public in a wing of the high school. Collegiate Academy enrollment



Courtesy of Valencia College

The new campus located at Lake Nona Medical City will open on Sept. 20. The Lake Nona Campus will work in collaboration with Medical City.



Fred Lambert / Valencia Voice

Lake Nona Campus in July while construction was still underway on the 83,000 sq ft location

peaked at 400 students last spring, according to a Valencia news report.

The Lake Nona campus dedication ceremony will occur on Thursday, Sept. 20, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. The festivities are open to the public and all are encouraged to come out and celebrate the completion of the campus' first building.

Among those slated to speak at the ceremony are Mayor Buddy Dyer and President Sandy Shugart, according to Dr. Bosley.

Though the campus opens for business on Sept. 20, fall semester officially begins for students on Sept. 27.

The campus is located at 12500 Narcoossee Road in Orlando, Fla. For additional information on the campus, call 407-956-8300 ext. 2400.

## Voter registration comes to West Campus

By Joel Pinero  
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The Student Government Association (SGA) will be hosting a constitution day at Valencia's West Campus on Sept. 18, forty-five days before Election Day.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the patio of the Student Services Building, students and faculty will be given the chance to register to vote for the November election, as well as enjoy food and beverages.

The patriotic-themed event will include free American flags as well as key chains for its participants.

This event will include guest speakers such as George Prescott Garnica Bush, son of former Florida state governor Jeb Bush, who

will be explaining the importance of voting.

"This is essentially a registration drive, shining light on the importance of not only voting for the president, however, state and local representatives as well," said Evan King, president of SGA for the West Campus chapter.

If you are unable to make it to the event on Tuesday, you can also register to vote anytime during school hours in the Student Development office located in building three.

Oct. 4 will be the last day to register in order to participate in the 2012 elections.

For more information regarding constitution day on Valencia's West Campus you may contact the Student Government Association or pay them a visit in building three, room 137.



# Valencia's 'Urinetown'

## Students come out in mass to earn top billing

By James Tutten

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Auditioning for live musical theater can be a stressful and trying process, especially for those with little to no experience. Nearly 70 students of varying talent and experience levels at Valencia College came out last week to earn a spot in this semester's musical production, "URINETOWN: The Musical."

"I think this is the most people we've ever had come out for an audition," said director Julia Gagne, who also works as an artistic director and theater department chair at Valencia.

Actors who showed up for the audition were told to perform 16 bars of

an upbeat and a ballad musical number to display their singing ability. Catchy tunes from such musicals as "Avenue Q", "Book of Mormon" and "Spamalot" were selected in order to mirror the off beat style of "URINETOWN".

The potential players performed in front of Gagne, dance captain Forrest Hershey, choreographer Lesley Brasseur Rodgers and accompanied by musical director Tim Hanes at piano. These four remained professional and courteous to all who tried out, giving only a simple nod and thank you to individuals at the audition.

Actors young and old, with widely varying levels of experience, came out for this open casting call. You could see the disappointment from a first timer after a botched performance, and the dignified confidence of seasoned actors unphased by the judging process.

"I haven't been in a musical for sev-



James Tutten / Valencia Voice

Madison Gomez looks over her audition paperwork with the judges on Tuesday, Sept. 4.



James Tutten / Valencia Voice

Judges listen to potential cast members for the fall semester's musical production "URINETOWN."

eral years, so I'm a little nervous because I haven't been judged like this in a while," said health services student Karla Madrigal.

So much can be learned just from the audition process, and the list of do's and don'ts can be a lot to contemplate for the inexperienced. Along with having a strong and supportive theater program Valencia offers actors with little to no experience a chance to see what's really in store with the pressures of live performance. It can be compared to personal relationships in life; they're not always perfect and sometimes you need a few bad ones to get comfortable with yourself and learn what you truly need to find success.

"Last year I performed Rocky Horror Picture Show at FSU and it was a lot of fun, this would be my first show at Valencia if they pick me," said psychology student Megan Kuiper.

The comedic aspects and upbeat nature of "URINETOWN" also address complicated real world issues. Problems of corruption and greed from politicians and fighting over environmental issues form a backdrop to this Tony award-winning production.

To help drum up more attention for the play as it gets closer to opening week Gagne plans to email college faculty in the areas of political and earth sciences about the relevance of this play to their curriculum because of the tie-in with politics, environmental conservation, and other economic issues.

Shows are currently set to run from Oct. 19 through 28, and Valencia Voice will have continuing coverage as the show gets closer to opening night. More information about this and other fine art programs at Valencia College can be found at their official website, [www.valenciacollege.edu/artsandentertainment](http://www.valenciacollege.edu/artsandentertainment).

## HIV/AIDS tests bring awareness

By Joel Pinero

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In the midst of National HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, on Sept. 20, Valencia will be hosting free HIV testing for all students attending the college.

The event will exclusively take place at Valencia's East Campus and is available to all Valencia students.

With the growing epidemic of HIV/AIDS affecting more than 33 million people globally, more than 100 people every day are being diagnosed with HIV.

One-fourth of those affected by the disease are unaware. Healthcare professionals recommend that you get tested for sexually transmitted diseases, regardless of the protective measures you may use. The risk is always present.

A widespread misconception is that a negative result means that you are negative the day of the test, but research shows that after being infected it can take as long as 90 days for the infection to show up.

Encourage your friends to get tested and to "know your status."

Testing takes less than 30 minutes and requires no appointment.

Be sure to have your Valencia ID on hand.

The event is scheduled from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. and will take place in bldg. 5, room 112.

Next month, Valencia will also offer free HIV testing at the East Campus in the same room. This will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 17, from 12:30 - 5:00 p.m.

For more information and any other questions, please feel free to contact the activities department at (407) 582-2313.



# Peace day comes to Valencia

## Film festival highlights East Campus event

By Shannon Scheidell  
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In partnership with the Orlando Global Peace Film Festival, Valencia College will present three movies spread across two days, Thursday, Sept. 20 and Friday, Sept. 21, the International Day of Peace.

"If we hit an obstacle, it's because there's something better waiting for us," said Rachel Allen, humanities professor and coordinator of the Initiative.

Allen expects a crowd of no more than 100 people will show, as another event will take place on the East Campus during the same time the Global Peace Film Festival celebrations are scheduled to begin.

The first screening will be of "Booker's Place: A Mississippi

Story," which will be shown at 7 p.m. on the Winter Park campus, Thursday, Sept. 20.

This film is a documentary about one man's daring decision to speak the truth about the oppression he faced in his daily life and how his actions changed the world as a result.

"Opening Our Eyes" describes the journeys of 11 people who made a difference and "Khaatti Suun (Pure Gold)" tells the story about how a group of young women in Nepal worked their way into the educational system one step at a time.

"Opening Our Eyes" will be shown at 7 p.m. on the east campus and Purna, guest speaker for "Khaatti Suun," will present the film to be simulcast on both the east and west campuses from 2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. on Friday,

Sept. 21. All screenings are free and open to the public.

Aside from the films shown during the Peace Day Celebrations, there will be a T-shirt giveaway and a candlelit human peace sign will assemble for photographs near Memory Mall on the east campus.

"We want students to become inspired. We want them to know they can make a difference in the world," said Pherai. "It isn't your grandparent's peace movement."

"We still think of a peace movement when we think of the 1960s, where people were putting flowers in their hair and burning their bras," said Allen.

Today peacemakers need to learn the culture, the language, and they must behave in the civil society where they wish to change.

The movement starts at home, but extends to far-reaching countries like Nigeria and Nepal.

Lisa Schirch, a research professor at Eastern Mennonite University, is currently working hand-in-hand with officers on the frontline in Iraq to come to a consensus as to what steps need to be taken to bring the American and Iraqi cultures together in agreement.

For more information, like the Peace and Justice Initiative on Facebook or read the latest newsletter.



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# Future of trade brings fear to tribes

## Will legalizing online poker hurt the market for physical casinos?

By Rob Hotakainen  
McClatchy Newspapers

Since he dropped out of Seattle Central Community College, Alex Fitzgerald said, he's found the good life: winning more than \$2.5 million as a professional online-poker player and quickly becoming one of the hottest young gamblers in the world.

Poker, he said, is his passion and his profession, and he studies it every morning. But he's doing it in Costa Rica. He said he must play on foreign land because online poker is illegal in the United States, after the Justice Department shut

down the three largest sites on Apr. 15, 2011, a day known among gamblers as Black Friday.

"I can never live in my country of birth again without giving up the only job that has consistently fed me since I was a teenager," said Fitzgerald, who's 24.

One thing might change that: Congress could legalize online gaming, allowing at least 150 U.S. poker players who've fled the country to return. While the poker industry is lobbying hard to make that happen, it's the ultimate nightmare for many U.S. Indian tribes, who fear that it could destroy their \$28

billion-a-year casino business.

While no vote has been set, poker lobbyists have lined up backing from the nation's most powerful senator, Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, who once headed his home state's gambling commission. They're banking on Reid to muscle a bill through by the end of the year, reversing the ban approved in 2006.

To help get the job done, the Poker Players Alliance, a lobbying group that represents players across the country, is leading a national grass-roots campaign, urging its 1.2 million members to flood Congress with letters, emails, phone calls and tweets. In May, the group joined nearly 20 members of Congress at a retreat for House of Representatives Republicans in Florida, hosting a poker and casino night and posting photos on its website that showed lawmakers crowded around a table learning the finer points of Texas Hold 'Em. Rep. Joe Barton, a Texas Republican who's a respected poker player in his own right, is leading the House effort to pass a bill.

While Black Friday angered poker players, they scored a win in December, when the Obama administration announced a move that could go a long way toward legalizing online gaming. The Justice Department said it would apply the major anti-gambling statute, the Wire Act, only to sports events and races, clearing the way for states to begin legal-



Tim Johnson / MCT

Jimmy Doherty left aside his electrical engineering degree to play online poker in Costa Rica.

izing online gaming without having to worry about federal laws.

Two states, Nevada and Delaware, already have done so. New Jersey could become the third this year.

John Pappas, the executive director of the Poker Players Alliance, said legalization of online gaming was inevitable now that the Obama administration had "opened the door." He's backing a plan that would allow the Department of Commerce to certify states to regulate online poker, while allowing them to go beyond their own borders to accept bets from players.

"There needs to be some sort of clear statute: What is unlawful Internet gambling, and what is lawful Internet gambling?" Pappas said.

Legalization is a worrisome prospect for many tribal officials, who predict that most gamblers would be less likely to drive to casinos, often found on isolated tribal lands, if they could play for money

on their home computers.

On Capitol Hill, where congressional committees have been debating the issue for months, tribes have been busy trying to line up votes.

Daniel Akaka, the chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, unveiled a draft of the Tribal Online Gaming Act of 2012, which would allow federally recognized tribes to apply for licenses to operate online poker.

Akaka, who's regarded as a close ally of the tribes, is seeking reaction from tribes and other senators before deciding whether to formally introduce the measure.

"Anybody who's in the gaming business today and isn't seeking to take their business online is really going to be left in the dust, just like the booksellers were and just like the music industry was," Pappas said. "Gaming is going to be the next wave."

— MCT Campus




Isaac Brekken / MCT

Art Reber called criminal penalties on online poker "one of the stupidest things on the planet."



# Tweets of the Week






**Happy Gilmore** @\_Happy\_Gilmore

Instead of throwing the first pitch, it'd be funnier if Presidents had to quarterback the first play of an NFL game..




**The Associated Press** @AP

BREAKING: BP to sell interest in Gulf oil rigs to Plains for \$5.55B; Plains also buying Shell stake.



**Men Humor** @MenHumor

Life is hard when **gas prices** are higher then your GPA.



**Stephen** @Stephen\_NJ

Everyday I wake up saying, "why did I go to bed so late?" And repeat it the next day. **#college**




**The Daily Show** @TheDailyShow

The secret to the Clinton marriage? Distance. [on.fb.me/QoxsLY](https://on.fb.me/QoxsLY)



**TED** @ComedyTed

I hate when I'm set on running a yellow light and the person in front of me chickens out.



**Wife That Girl** @WifeIf

If she watches Sunday **football** with you, wife that girl.



**Andy Borowitz** @BorowitzReport

If Obama wins, it's because his old dude without a script was Bill Clinton and Mitt's was Clint Eastwood.

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Official Student Media of Valencia College

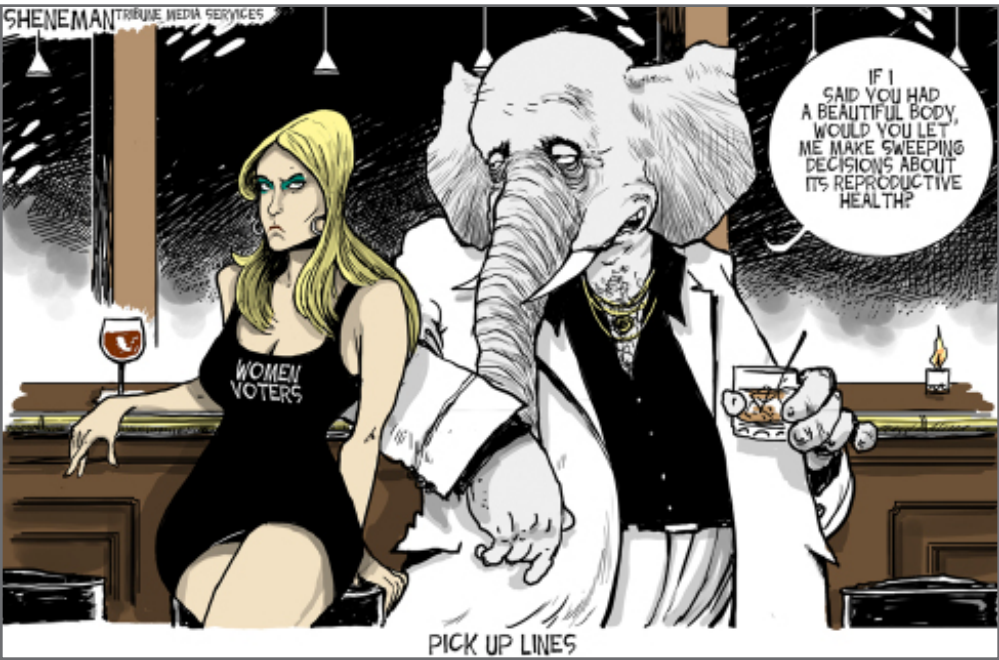
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# Did you hear the one about Mitt and Barack?



## Mitt Romney said ...

"Gasoline prices have doubled" since President Barack Obama was inaugurated. True. Except that gas prices were extraordinarily depressed because of the Great Recession in January of 2009 when Obama placed his hand on the Bible. The average price for regular gasoline was \$3.84 last week, the U.S. Energy Information Administration reports. Prices were averaging \$1.84 the week Obama took office. What Romney didn't bother to say: Gas prices topped four bucks a gallon in the summer of 2008.

"Unlike President Obama, I will not raise taxes on the middle class."

Except, Obama hasn't raised taxes. He has cut them. FactCheck.org points out that Obama pushed for the Making Work Pay Tax Credit, which channeled up to \$400 to individuals earning up to \$75,000. And, of course, he pushed to temporarily cut the payroll tax to fund Social Security benefits from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent.



## Bill Clinton said ...

"(Obama) has offered a reasonable plan of \$4 trillion in debt reduction over a decade ... the kind of balanced approach proposed by the Simpson-Bowles commission."



## Paul Ryan said ...

Obama "funneled" \$716 billion from Medicare (Romney has said the same thing repeatedly). It's not true. The \$716 billion are savings from payments to providers of Medicare that both the president and Ryan count in their respective plans. The Affordable Care Act seeks to find savings to extend the life of Medicare, not cut benefits.

Obama "did exactly nothing" with the report from the Simpson-Bowles commission. Obama showed little interest in the report, that's true. But Ryan failed to note that he was on the commission and voted to scuttle its findings. A key fact, if you ask us.

Blamed the president for the nation losing its Triple A credit rating from Standard & Poor's. But S&P blamed the downgrade on the recalcitrance of both parties.

... And we're not going to get into the Wisconsin congressman's marathon times or how many "fourteeners" he has climbed. His political statements leave us with quite enough fodder.

But by any reasonable accounting, Obama's budget doesn't reduce the deficit by \$4 trillion. Obama disingenuously counts \$1 trillion in cuts already agreed upon. And he's counting a mythical \$848 billion in "sav-

They lied. They fibbed.  
They cast aspersions.  
They distorted records.  
They told tall tales ranging from itsy bitsy white lies to great big ol' whoppers.

Ain't politics great?  
Former President Bill Clinton lamented that "democracy does not have to be a blood sport," but then proceeded to stretch the truth about the Democrats' rival and GOP nominee former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. And Romney, no slouch, peppered his own acceptance speech with statistics and claims that were a little tough to swallow.

Here are a few of our favorites culled from the convention speeches (a tip of the hat to PolitFact, FactCheck.org and The Fact Checker at the Washington Post):



## Joe Biden said ...

"What they didn't tell you is what they're proposing would cause Medicare to go bankrupt by 2016."

Maybe they didn't tell you that because it's not true?

Glenn Kessler, who runs The Fact Checker at The Washington Post notes that "it is highly misleading to use the phrase 'bankrupt.'?"

Kessler writes that the payroll tax, which funds the trust fund for Medicare Part A, could pay most estimated expenses for many years.

Is Medicare in trouble long term?  
Absolutely.

But Biden was stretching the truth in his attempt to carve up the Ryan plan, which features means-tested premium supports for recipients to buy coverage from a menu of options, including the traditional Medicare program. Thus, another Biden claim that "they're not preserving Medicare at all," also rings hollow.



## President Barack Obama said ...

U.S. automakers are "back on top of the world." Not true. General Motors is No. 2 once again and may well be third in sales worldwide by the end of this year. Toyota and Volkswagen will likely be the top dogs. Obama takes credit, justifiably, for "saving" the domestic auto industry and thousands of jobs in the upper Midwest. But GM has struggled at times; for the second time this year the automaker shut down production of its all-electric Volt, saying it had to "match supply with demand."

That Romney said it was "tragic" to "end the war in Iraq." Actually, Romney wasn't critical of ending the war; he was critical of the pace of troop withdrawal under the president's leadership. Romney thought Obama was bringing the troops home too soon.

He would restore "the same (tax) rate we had when Bill Clinton was president" for upper-income taxpayers. Yes, and no. For income taxes, that's true. But what the president didn't point out was that new taxes to pay for health care reform begin in 2013, so high-income earners will actually be paying more than they did under Clinton.

— MCT Campus, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



# ‘Cold Light of Day’ gets icy reception

Systematic action thriller fails to ignite audiences

By Alexa Rydelek  
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Envision a picture-perfect scene: a troubled family reuniting for an idyllic Spanish vacation. But of course, that is far too good to be true for any action film. Illusions of paradise are soon shattered as the thrilling, though systemic, plot of “The Cold Light of Day” takes off.

At the outset of the film, Will Shaw, a young businessman portrayed by the dashing Henry Cavill, joins his family aboard their sailboat for a weeklong getaway to the coasts of Spain.

The story takes flight when the boat is hijacked and his loved ones are kidnapped by a group of terrorists. Faced with the consequences of his father’s decisions, Will is confronted with a mysterious briefcase and a 24-hour window to win his family

back. With intelligence agents after him and the case, Will is now on the run.

“The Cold Light of Day” is a typical action-packed film. Full of car chases, bullet battles and a sultry leading lady, it hits all of the marks. Cavill comes off as quite the amateur in comparison to his co-star and on-screen father, Bruce Willis. Sigourney Weaver does her best to add some star power as Jean Carrack.

The film tells the tale of your usual undercover agent who must reveal his true nature to his family in order to keep them safe. Like many other films of its kind, it focuses on a man who must rise to be a hero. An isolated emotional scene adds a little something to the plot, rather than leaving it to just guts and glory. “The Cold Light of Day” was all together reminiscent of an all too familiar Jason Bourne-style romp.



Courtesy of Summit Entertainment

Will Shaw (Henry Cavill) gets interrogated by terrorist while his family is held up for ransom.

Fellow moviegoer, Glen Scott, seemed to agree, describing the movie as “good, but not great.”

If you like your movies action packed, then “The Cold Light of Day” could be your blockbuster. All in all, it simply does not stand out among other thrillers of similar plot.

Sept. 14  
“10 Years”



**Rated:** PG-13  
**Running Time:** 1 hr. 40 min.  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Director:** Jamie Linden  
**Starring:** Channing Tatum, Jenna Dewan-Tatum, Justin Long

“The Master”



**Rated:** R  
**Running Time:** 2 hrs. 16 min.  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Director:** Paul Thomas Anderson  
**Starring:** Joaquin Phoenix, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams

## Box Office



**“The Possession”**

**Rated:**  
PG-13

**This Weekend:**  
\$ 9,500,000

**Total Gross:**  
\$ 33,349,000



**“Lawless”**

**Rated:**  
R

**This Weekend:**  
\$ 6,002,000

**Total Gross:**  
\$ 23,520,000



**“The Words”**

**Rated:**  
PG-13

**This Weekend:**  
\$ 5,000,000

**Total Gross:**  
\$ 5,000,000





Courtesy of CBS Films

Bradley Cooper (Rory Jansen) joins some of the industry's best in "The Words" including Oscar winner Jeremy Irons.

# Movie brings plagiarism to light

By Joel Pinero  
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New film "The Words" is a story not worth telling. Bradley Cooper ("The Hangover") and Zoë Saldña ("Colombiana") star in the latest drama "The Words."

This is a movie about plagiarism and the fine line between fiction and nonfiction, has various stories within story and fails to leave you with a concise understanding of what events truly occurred.

The story (which is being narrated) starts out with an aspiring author, Rory Jansen, whose work is failing to be published. After losing all of his money and patience, Jansen stumbles upon an unusual manuscript in an old suitcase given to him by his wife (Saldña.) Although hesitant at first, he decides to publish the story as his own.

After much success and recognition, his career appears to be going well. But soon after, Rory is

confronted by the disgruntled "true" author and realizes the true story behind "The Words."

The story then unfolds and we learn about the consequences and intentions of everybody involved. The film then goes back and forth between the story the narrator is telling and the narrator's personal story. So there are several stories being told.

Moviegoer, John Rodriguez said, "There was really no point to the movie, it lacked purpose."

The movie's climax came and went unnoticed. The movie is over before you can even put the pieces together. However, the consistency of the movie was good and the plot was engaging as well as the acting.

The roles weren't roles we haven't necessarily seen Saldña or Cooper play, but the performances were still very consistent and good.

Stacey Richards, another moviegoer, said, "The movie was entertaining and the acting was okay."

So if you are looking to catch "The Words," it is now playing at a movie theater near you.

This bracelet was a gift Amber Apodoca received from the center where she helped teens with drug and alcohol problems. She was wearing it when an underage drunk driver took her life.

**Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.**



Photo by Michael Mazzeo



# Theatre Downtown puts new light on “Of Mice and Men”

## Orlando brings to life American classic play

By Shannon Scheidell  
sscheidell@valenciavoice.com

“Of Mice and Men” is a story about learning when to pick your battles and knowing when to put a dog down.

Enter Lennie and George. These are two fellas who have been “going together for a while,” a statement which gives Whit a chuckle later in the plot, and essentially means they travel from gig to gig.

With a head full of goals and a heart of guilt, George is motivated to take a stake in some land and plant his roots. Though George dreams of life without Lennie, the softy obviously spurs him on.

George’s character is reminiscent of lone wolf, Roland, from Stephen King’s “Dark Tower” series — except for his loud mouth, of course.

Throughout the play, George is faced with conflicts across the board. There’s man vs. self, man vs. man, but not a hint of his aversion to nature, save his hankering for owning a piece of it.

The actor himself (Jeff Hole) had a few obstacles to overcome, having only two weeks to memorize his lines, while the rest of the cast had about three months to rehearse. He played his role well enough, though Lennie (Tim Bass) stole the stage.

Lennie is played by Bass who took to adapting the mannerisms of his own son



Shannon Scheidell / Valencia Voice

Theatre downtown brings American classic book to life in the play “Of Mice and Men.” The play opened last Thursday, Sept. 6, and will go through Sept. 22.

to flesh out the role.

“When he gets frustrated he puts his hands on his head.”

Bass describes the way Lennie rocks back and forth when under the scrutiny of his best friend and chaperon.

George teaches Lennie not to speak when he’s spoken to on this next job only to find out that everyone on the ranch

wants a piece of Lennie’s mind.

The boss of the ranch takes Lennie and George in, with his farm hand Candy keeping an eye on it all. Candy’s a quiet gentlemen with a nose for adventure yet without the necessary, shall we say, youth one needs to succeed.

Aside from Slim (Dean Walkuski,) who takes a shine to George, the other

workers on the ranch are suspicious of the two newest members of the group.

Curley is a prick who has a villainous red-headed vixen for a wife, Whit is a nit-wit who likes to get laid by the lousiest bar maids in town, and Lennie only does what he can, to get close to the wonders of women.

After a rousing argument aimed at

Lennie, highlighting his more recent folly, George shares a bit of his foreshadowing nature with the audience when he speaks aside, allowing Lennie to become absorbed in eating his can of beans, fingers first.

He then tells Lennie to come back to this place by the river “at the first sign of trouble.”

And that’s exactly what becomes of our broad-shouldered lug of a character that is our lead character.

See, Lennie has a fetish for all things soft and silky, such as the fur of a mouse or the touch of a young girl’s hair.

Curley’s wife gives all men who cross her path “the eye,” as Candy puts it.

Lennie can’t quite catch her drift when she tries to cast her spell on him, so she tells him to stroke her locks. He gets wrapped up in the moment and snaps her neck.

Out of horror, or shame, or whichever feeling a man has when he takes the life of another, Lennie flees the scene and takes to the woods, waiting for George to come rescue him yet again.

Curley leads the entire cast out on a hunt for the guy who broke his hand and killed his wife.

While John Steinbeck’s novel “Of Mice and Men” is widely known as a tragedy, the play reads more like a comedy, with a slight note of death that springs up on cue. You could say the whole play is an allegory for a lonely life not worth living without someone to share it with.





Jaconia Toyloy / Valencia Voice

Local models displayed Florida friendly fall looks from stores like BCBG, Ann Taylor, Banana Republic, Lacoste, Black and White Market, Juicy Couture and New Religion. The events will go through Sunday, Sept. 23, for the Runway to Hope Champagne Brunch.

# Millennia mall shows off Florida's best fall looks

By Jaconia Toyloy  
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Vibrant models strutted down a silver runway exhibiting Florida interpretations of fall fashion at the "Fall for All Runway" show at the Mall of Millennia in Orlando on Saturday, Sept. 8.

At the show guests looked for inspiration in colors, fabrics, patterns, and styles, while others were looking to compare designers' lines this season to last year's fall collections.

BCBG, True Religion, Ann Taylor,

Lacoste and Black and White Market were just some of the major designers that displayed their fall lines.

With different takes on Florida's fall, Black and White Market and Ann Taylor included accents of metal, the versatile black and pops of color.

Ann Taylor's line also included subtle clashes of texture and patterns to awaken the senses with innovation and risk taking.

Banana Republic put together layered basic colored garments with structured jackets and traditional tailoring.

Juicy Couture kept guests guessing with collaborating extremes from a big faux fur jacket with a bright orange flowing camisole to a gold cheetah print tunic accented with a royal blue handbag to a structured animal print cape-like jacket with a purple mini-dress peeking from underneath.

True Religion played up classic American styles with jeans, plaids, boots and college jackets — without any risk taking.

True to its bold feminine silhouettes, BCBG featured bold patterns, hints of

metals, and killer heels. The line was well received due to its invigorating collision of structure and flow. Each outfit had the element of movement with a clear distinction of sharp fit.

Not everyone thought the lines were fashion forward enough, but guests were able to walk away with a definition of what they would take and leave.

"I saw a lot of colors, gold, and light weight jackets," said Jennifer, a guest whose favorite designer at the show turned out to be BCBG.

Tara Thomas, one of the most ener-

getic models from the show, was able to lend some fashion advice for the fall, "take it to the edge a couple of times, mix and match things you might not normally do, but be yourself."

Millennia Fashion Week continues until Sept. 23 with the Runway to Hope Champagne Brunch and Fashion Show to benefit young cancer patients across Central Florida, a runway show by International Academy of Design, and much more exclusive and open events.

Details can be found at <http://www.mallatmillenia.com/events/fashion-week>.





# Fall TV Preview

By Danny Morales  
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**"Grey's Anatomy"**  
Season premiere: Sept. 27, 9:00 p.m. EST  
Ellen Pompeo returns as Dr. Meredith Grey, in the Golden Globe winning drama "Grey's Anatomy." The doctors of Seattle Grace Hospital deal with life and death every day, but with the help of one another, they save lives as well as find comfort.



**"666 Park Avenue"**  
Series premiere: Sept. 30, 10:00 p.m. EST  
Based on the book by Gabriella Pierce, the show centers around the historic Drake apartment building and its mysterious owners Gavin and Olivia Doran. Rachael Taylor stars as Jane Van Veen, who along with her boyfriend Henry Martin (Dave Annable) move to New York to manage the Drake.

**"Revenge"**  
Season premiere: Sept. 30, 9:00 p.m. EST  
Emily VanCamp stars as Emily Thorne who seems new to the Hamptons, but something is odd about her. Soon the neighbors realize that Emily may not be who she says she is, and she may not be all that new to the neighborhood. Emily is really Amanda Clarke, who lived in the Hamptons as a child, but was forced to leave when her father was framed for a crime he didn't commit.



**"Nashville"**  
Series premiere: Oct. 10, 10:00 p.m. EST  
Rayna James (Britton) is an aging country music star who's beginning to fade. Juliette Barnes (Panettiere) is the next up-and-coming teen star, who wants to take Rayna's place in country music. The show follows the two on their joint tour, as Rayna makes an attempt to reinvent herself in order to stay relevant.



By Felicia Roopchand  
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**"The X Factor"**  
Season Premiere: Sept. 12, 8 p.m.  
This talent competition is revamping their judges for its highly anticipated second season, adding in pop stars Britney Spears and Demi Lovato to veteran judges L.A. Reid and Simon Cowell.



**"Ben and Kate"**  
Series Premiere: Sept. 25, 8:30 p.m. EST  
Kate Fox (played by Dakota Johnson) is an overly responsible adult who followed the rules her entire life, until she got pregnant in college, causing her to drop out just before her graduation. Now, it's just her and her five-year-old daughter... that is until her older and less responsible brother, Ben (played by Nat Faxon), decides to move in.



**"The Mob Doctor"**  
Series Premiere: Sept. 17, 9:00 p.m. EST  
A Chicago doctor has more than medical school student loans to pay off. Dr. Grace Devlin (played by Jordana Spiro) and her family is indebted to a Southside Chicago mob. She tries to balance the two very different worlds of her medical career and the mafia life.



**"Glee"**  
Season Premiere: Sept. 13, 9 p.m.  
The Golden Globe winning series is back for their fourth season and heading in a 'New Direction'. Most of the original characters have graduated and are moving to various locations in the country to fulfill their dreams. Meanwhile, the rest of the students are still at McKinley High, now recruiting members for their shrinking Glee club. This season promises big name guest stars such as Kate Hudson and Sarah Jessica Parker.

**"The Mindy Project"**  
Series Premiere: Sept. 25, 9:30 p.m. EST  
Emmy Award-nominated writer/producer and New York Times bestselling author Mindy Kaling brings a new series following the story of a woman, Mindy Lahiri (Kaling) who, although having a very successful job, cannot seem to find love.



**"New Girl"**  
Season Premiere: Sept. 25, 8 p.m.  
Follow the quirky Jess (Zooey Deschanel) and her three lovable roommates along with her gorgeous best friend into their sophomore season. Will Nick (Jake Johnson) move out of the loft? What exactly is the status of CECE (Hannah Simone) and Schmidt's (Max Greenfield) relationship?





# Fall TV Preview



By Danny Morales  
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**“Two and a Half Men”**  
Season premiere: Sept. 27, 8:30 p.m. EST  
This will be Ashton Kutcher’s second season on the show playing internet billionaire Walden Schmidt, who now lives in Charlie’s old house and invited Alan (Jon Cryer) and his son Jake (Angus T. Jones) to stay with him.

**“How I Met Your Mother”** — Season premiere: Sept. 24, 8:00 p.m. EST  
The show will continue right where it left off last season. Ted Mosby (Josh Radnor) is still telling his kids stories that will hopefully one day lead to them finding out how he met their mother. All of Ted’s friends will be back this season, including Barney (Neil Patrick Harris) and his best friend Marshall (Jason Segal). This season we will see how Marshall and Lily coop with



being parents, as well as who Barney will get married to. What is yet to be seen is what will happen with Ted and Victoria after the end of last season, when Victoria left her fiancé for Ted. Who knows, maybe this could be the girl that Ted has been waiting for?

**“Partners”**  
Series premiere: Sept. 24, 8:30 p.m. EST  
“Partners” is a new Monday night comedy based on the lives of Emmy award-winning creators David Kohen and Max Mutchnick. Joe and Louis best friends and business partners at an architecture firm, but their “bromance” is tested when Joe gets engaged to Ali (Sophia Bush).



**“Vegas”**  
Series premiere: Sept. 25, 10:00 p.m. EST  
A show based on the true story of Ralph Lamb, who went from fourth generation rancher to sheriff in the 1960s. The show will star Dennis Quaid in his television debut, as Sheriff Ralph Lamb. As well as Michael Chiklis as Chicago mobster Vincent Savino, who has plans on making Las Vegas his own. The two clash when Savino moves west to set up his operation and Lamb is forced to bring order to Las Vegas.



**“Elementary”**  
Series premiere: Sept. 27, 10:00 p.m. EST  
Jonny Lee Miller stars as the reinvented and tattooed Sherlock Holmes in CBS’s new drama, “Elementary.” Alongside him is Lucy Liu, as Dr. Joan Watson. This series is set in modern day New York, after Sherlock Holmes has left London and checked into rehab.

By Robert Van Deering  
rvandeering@valenciavoice.com

**“The Office”**  
Season premiere: Sept. 20, 9:00 p.m. EST  
This long running comedy series added two new people to the lineup: actor Clarke Duke as Clark and actor Jake Lacy as Pete. Steve Carrell and cast returns to play out the final season of “The Office.” The premiere airs Thursday, Sept. 20 at 9 p.m.



**“Revolution”**  
Series premiere: Sept. 17, 10:00 p.m. EST  
“Revolution” is about an unknown phenomenon that eliminates all forms of the world’s technology. The show focuses on the Matheson family, who can reverse the power outage with an item they possess. The stars of the show are Billy Burke, Tracy Spiridakos, and Anna Lisa Phillips.



**“The New Normal”**  
Series premiere: Sept. 11, 9:30 p.m. EST  
This is a new television comedy series about David (Justin Bartha) and Bryan (Andrew Rannells) who are a happy Los Angeles gay couple. The only thing missing in their relationship is a baby. Upon meeting Goldie (Georgia King), the couple chooses her as their surrogate.



**“Go On”**  
Series premiere: Sept. 11, 9:00 p.m. EST  
This show is a “dramedy” sitcom. It features actor Matthew Perry as the main character Ryan King, who is a sportscaster trying to move on from the loss of his wife.



# NBC puts new family in prime time



Justin Bartha (David) and Andrew Rannells (Bryan) play a happy Los Angeles couple in the new NBC comedy "New Normal."

Actress Georgia King joins the cast as, Goldie, the couple's surrogate.

Courtesy of FOX



By Robert Van Deering  
rvandeering@valenciavoice.com

"New Normal" is a new television comedy series, which is going to air its first episode on NBC on Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 9:30 p.m.

The show focuses on David, portrayed by actor Justin Bartha, and Bryan, played by actor Andrew Rannells. They are a happy Los Angeles couple. The only thing complicating their relationship is a baby.

Another character, Goldie, is a waitress from the Midwest that is played by the actor Georgia King. Goldie also has an eight-year-old daughter named Shania, portrayed by actress Bebe Wood. They decide to pick up and move to Los Angeles, taking Goldie's grandmother's car from the Midwest to California.

And then there's Jane. She's Goldie's grandmother and is portrayed by actress Ellen Barkin. Jane is furious about Goldie taking her car to Los Angeles, so she follows her to California against her granddaughter's wishes. Jane also happens to be incredibly homophobic against gay couples and is racist to boot.

When Jane finally arrives in Los Angeles, Goldie meets Bryan and David. She eventually decides to become their surrogate in order to help them. Jane decides to try and convince Goldie that helping out David and Bryan is not a good idea.

This show is a very funny show because of how Goldie meets David and Bryan. Jane's interactions and uproarious temper also add to the comedic value of the program. "New Normal" is a well done and funny new show that's sure to reach many different audiences.



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VALENCIA



# Dragon\*Con grows, while sci-fi fans multiply

Massive multimedia conventions increase in popularity across the country as 'geek chic' goes mainstream

By Natasha Tetley  
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Long gone are the days when being a "geek" came with a lot of social stigma and a little bit of "Revenge of the Nerds" style taunting. Being a pop culture fanatic is now more mainstream than ever, and an average of 46,000 convention attendees have the gathering to prove it.

Dragon\*Con 2012 was the 26th year for the massive multimedia and pop culture fan convention. Descending upon downtown Atlanta, Ga. yearly over the four days of Labor Day weekend, Dragon\*Con features over 3,500 hours of programming, hundreds of media guests, dealers, exhibition halls, a Saturday morning costume parade, and much more.

"Me and my husband enjoy science fiction and fantasy. It's nice that being a nerd is becoming more acceptable and open," said attendee Liza Hebert, dressed as a character from the popular HBO show "Game of Thrones." She was attending the convention for the sixth year in a row.

Spread across five of the major hotels in downtown Atlanta, the Marriott Marquis, the Atlanta Hilton, the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, the Hyatt Regency Atlanta, and the Westin Peachtree Plaza, the convention continues to grow yearly. Attendance in 2012 was expected to be upwards of 50,000 attendees.

According to Lt. Dan Rasmussen of the Atlanta Police Department, "This convention is a win for the city. This convention serves little to no problematic issues to the city, and that's not true for all events. This is a win, it really is."

Not only does Dragon\*Con serve as a special gathering place for fans to feel the spirit and camaraderie of the love of pop

culture, but it does its part in giving back to the community as well. In 2011, the annual Dragon\*Con Blood Drive registered 3,449 people and drew 2,938 donors.

And Dragon\*Con certainly prides itself on being fan focused. Its panel subjects range from comics and art, to science fiction and science fact, to space and alternate history. In addition to thousands of hours of panels, workshops, and programming, Dragon\*Con goes extracurricular after dark with live performances, DJ hosted dances, and themed parties.

"I love it, it's the greatest," said ac-

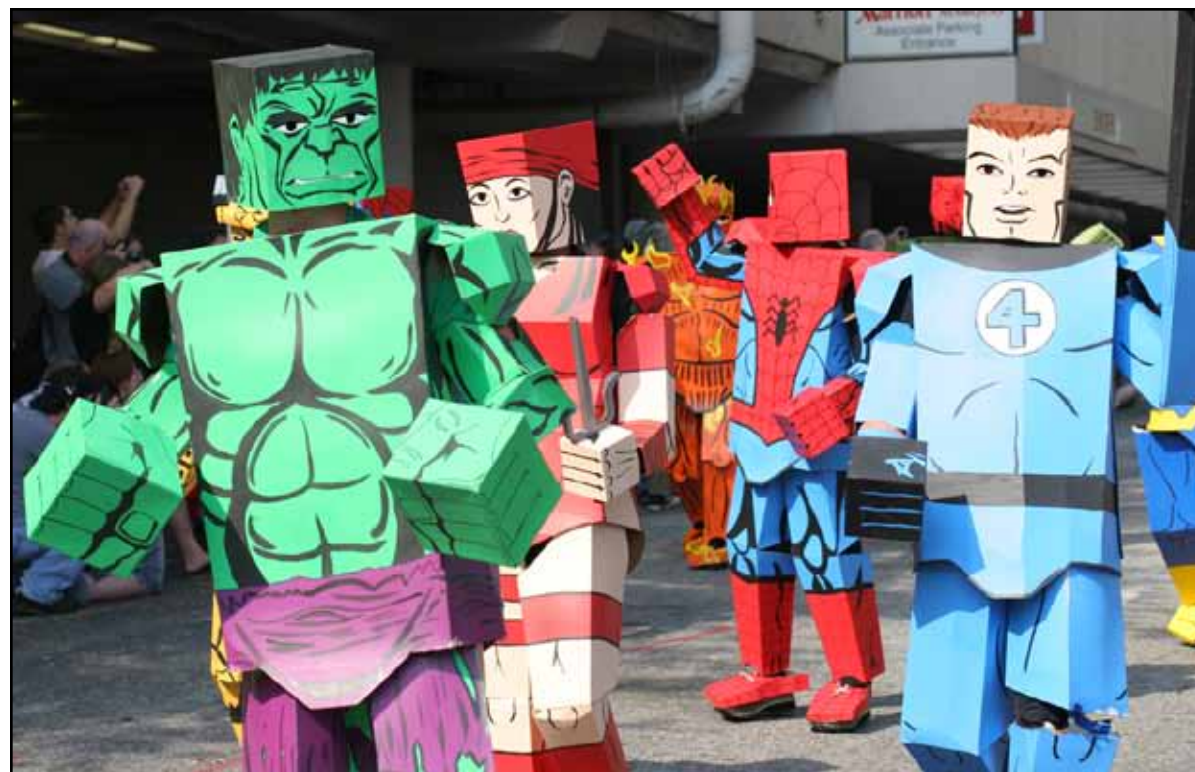
tor guest Gil Gerard, star of the late 70s classic, 'Buck Rogers in the 25th century', "I've done it several years in a row and I'll keep doing it. I consider it my convention," said Gerard.

Not only do the fans attend, but they also form the very workforce that keeps the convention running smoothly. Dragon\*Con is staffed by an average of 1,800 volunteers.

Stay connected to the Dragon\*Con official website, <http://dragoncon.org/>, for news and updates on the 2013 convention and pre-registration announcements.



Photo by Natasha Tetley/Valencia Voice  
Colorful marching band at Dragon\*Con 2012.



Courtesy of Dragon\*Con Photography (c) 2011  
Cardboard box versions of superheroes marching down the streets of Downtown Atlanta, Ga.



Courtesy of Dragon\*Con Photography (c) 2011  
Costumed Vader delights both young and old.