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cast brings
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Valencia College student shot dead

Donnie Shepard killed during a Super Bowl party; suspects still at large

By James Tutten
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Valencia student Donnie Shepard, 25, was shot and killed at a Super Bowl party he was hosting on Sunday Feb. 5, police officials report. Several guests were in attendance at Shepard's home when the shooting occurred at 2:50 p.m. in the 800 block of Widmere Avenue in Longwood, Fla.

Valencia Voice has an internal source that verifies that Shepard was currently enrolled and taking classes at Valencia prior to the shooting.

According to Longwood police, Shepard

was shot in the back after an apparent altercation between him and the suspected shooter. The suspect and an accomplice both arrived and fled the shooting in a small, two-door vehicle with a dark burgundy, candy-colored paint job and tintless windows.

One suspect is described as a black male, approximately 20-years-old, 6-feet-tall and 300 pounds, with a scruffy beard and braids in his hair. The other was described only as a clean-shaved black male of average height and build, wearing blue jeans and a plaid shirt. Despite a ground and air search, the two men fled the

scene and are currently being searched for by the Longwood police department.

Shepard was taken to South Seminole Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Details are still incoming and the information on the victim is not yet public. "It's still an ongoing investigation and the records haven't been cleared yet," said investigating Officer Jason Watts from the Longwood police department.

Anyone with information leading to the identification of these suspects is encouraged to call the Longwood police department at (407) 339-1297.

Juvenile pranksters face felony charges

Chemical bombs found on West Campus lead to serious consequences for youth

By Brittany Rose
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Six male juveniles ranging from 9 to 16 have been arrested and charged with felonies for possessing explosives and throwing projectiles in connection with the so-called "acid bomb" scare on Valencia College's West Campus.

The explosive devices were apparently "Drano bombs," which are a combination of

drain cleaner and aluminum foil mixed together inside of a soda bottle. The chemical reaction causes a small explosion and a loud noise. The explosions caused \$300 worth of damage.

"I was there with them. They were setting off bombs," said 13-year-old Nicholas Malave, the only arrested juvenile whose name has been released. "We were just trying to have fun. We didn't mean no harm to anyone."

All of the males arrested live within walking distance of the Valencia College west campus.

A report released on Thursday said, three were found with the help of a resident at a nearby apartment complex who thought that one of the explosives had been thrown at her door.

"Someone could have gotten hurt from this," said Sgt. Vince Ogburn, an Orlando Police Department spokesman. "Luckily no one did."

Security guards found the explosives in parking lots and on walkways three times over the past few weeks at the college campus. No one was hurt.

MVP celebrates Super Bowl win at Disney World Resort



Eli Manning parades down Main Street U.S.A. following Super Bowl XLVI win.

See 'Eli Manning at Disney' on page 17
For more Super Bowl coverage go to pages 15- 18

Long standing artistic tradition

Mount Dora Art Festival inspires local artists, young, old

By Shannon Metherell
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Hundreds of people from all over the country packed the streets of downtown Mount Dora this weekend for the two-day, 37th Annual Mount Dora Art Festival. The streets were blocked off for the festivities, and some families were letting festival-goers park in their yards and driveways for a fee. Others even had their children out front asking for donations and selling items like water or Gatorade.

Tents were sprawled over our blocks in every direction of downtown Mount Dora, giving well-known and amateur artists a chance to show off their talents.

"This is my second time at this art festival, but I've been drawing since I was four years old," said Mount Dora High School senior Jessica Durant, who was sitting down drawing anime-like characters next to her portfolio in a tent.

There were many different types of mediums that the artists used. Terry Widner, a new artist to the festival, created his spoon-art out of wood. "I have used any kind of wood you can imagine. If I can carve it, I can use it," he said. "Each one is different. That swirly one took four days to make where this one only took a couple of hours."

Widner also explained how shocked he was to get his work shown at the festival. "I have never been to any kind of festival before, but I was juried in and they ended up supplying the canopy and everything for free. I didn't have to pay any fees."

Widner wasn't the only first-timer at the festival; Lisa Russo from Ocklawaha, Fla. was also a newcomer. Her art consisted of mostly realistic portraits of people donning masquerade masks.

"I went to Venice. When I was there I saw the different masks they have and that's why I paint them, because there can be anyone behind the mask. It gives an open interpretation," said Russo.

Behind all the noise and clusters of people stopping to look in tents, musicians such as Bob

Culbertson and Paul Price played unique jazz instruments like the Chapman Stick. The Stick is a 12-string touchboard; the player just taps and holds the strings on the fret to create vibration and produce the noise, like an electric guitar. Culbertson has been playing the Chapman Stick since 1976 and has traveled to 20 different countries to perform.

Along with the art and food, there were activities for the kids to enjoy as well. They had face painting and a place to create sand art. Parents and adults joined in on the fun as well, with matching tiger faces and candles full of the sand art.

The festival lasted both Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. "This was the first time in a while that I've been to the Mount Dora Art Festival, and it's a lot better than a lot of the other art shows I have been to," said festival-goer Catherine Williams. "I am definitely going to try to come back again next year."



Mount Dora High School senior Jessica Durant working on some of her own anime-like art during the art festival.

Shannon Metherell / Valencia Voice

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Convocation aims for student success

Guest speaker shares her personal struggles, inspire youth to triumph

By James Tutton
jtutton@valenciavoice.com

Motivational speaker Andrea Mosby started her speech on Saturday morning with a story about being a troubled single mother at the age of 16, and how stress influenced her to lash out at her baby in a fit of depression by dropping him back into his crib because he wouldn't stop crying.

Mosby was sharing her personal stories to inspire students to find success in college and life. This was all part of the largest student success program at Valencia that provides financial help and assistance to those who qualify.

The crib incident became a pinnacle moment in Mosby's life, when she decided to start fixing the personal issues she was facing and become the best mother and person she could be. She went on to find success with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning. Her son went on to be greatly successful and is now working for a Fortune 500 company.

"You can't go change the world until you've changed yourself," said Mosby. "And I think people need to start with themselves and build out from there."

She breaks down her ideas on the personal improvement around the word "DECISIONS." Each letter in the acronym is a positive characteristic to have: Determination, Energy, Courage, Intuition, Serious, Imagination, Open, Never give up, and Success.

This was a fitting introduction for the true focus of the event; the kick off to a special financial aid program, "Road-map to Success." After the speech, students were given a detailed synopsis of what this program offers and how completing it will help them graduate.



James Tutton / Valencia Voice

inspirational speaker, Andrea Mosby talks with a large group of Valencia students about life lessons.

"A lot of students do make use of it, but we would like to see more," said Kathleen Marquis, academic advisor at the west campus.

Those enrolled in S.L.S. student success classes are eligible to earn points for academic advising, tutoring, being part of a club or organization, going to different skill shops and workshops and volunteering. Set points are earned for participation, and if 500 are earned a week before finals, students could receive a \$500 award. It's on a first come first serve basis, but the program has never run out of funds since its inception.

"I really need this scholarship so I can afford to go to school; it's the only way I'll be able to graduate," said Shaun Clevenger,

a first semester Valencia student hoping to major in criminal justice technology at UCF.

After being informed about the road-map program, the convocation ended with a resource fair informing students about different organizations and opportunities offered at Valencia, including academic centers with details on tutoring, different math centers, the library, and representatives from student groups like SGA and Valencia volunteers.

The student success convocation was a unique opportunity to inspire, inform, and assist students in finding success in college and life. Many believe programs like this help Valencia College stand out and undoubtedly earn its recent recognition as the top community college in the nation.



Carolyn Cole, Los Angeles Times / MCT

Hundreds of people lined up waiting for food. Nurishment supplies and water were scared.

Lesson learned from disaster

Government plans in case of future Fukushima

The Yomiuri Shimbun

The Japanese government will host a ministerial-level international conference on natural disasters in early July in the three prefectures hit hardest by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, according to Foreign Ministry officials.

The conference is an opportunity for other countries to share lessons from and responses to disasters.

The government also hopes to use the conference to showcase restoration and reconstruction efforts after the Great East Japan Earthquake last March and boost tourism in the disaster-hit areas, they said.

The two-day conference's main venue will be in Sendai, with three satellite venues to be set up in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures, according to the officials.

Japan plans to invite countries that have been hit by large-scale natural disasters in recent years, such as Thailand, which suffered serious damage from

last year's flooding, and Indonesia, hit by a massive earthquake in 2004. Latin American and African countries, which are prone to hurricanes and drought, respectively, are also expected to be invited, the officials said.

Japan will chair the conference. It will report on the Great East Japan Earthquake and examples of other natural disasters overseas, as well as facilitate discussions on such themes as how to manage disasters or minimize damage, emergency response measures and compiling recovery and reconstruction plans, according to the officials.

Trips to the disaster-hit areas are also planned, they said.

On the final day, organizers will compile a final report, which the government hopes will be reflected in the international guidelines on disaster management that the U.N. World Conference on Disaster Reduction will revise in 2015, they added.

— MCT Campus

Tragedy leaves unanswered questions

Micron CEO dies in small-plane crash at Boise Airport

McClatchy Newspapers

BOISE, Idaho — Fire crews are investigating a small-plane crash at the Boise Airport that resulted in the death of Micron CEO Steve Appleton on Friday morning.

Appleton was the only person in the plane, according to Boise Airport reports and Micron reports. Appleton was 51.

"We are deeply saddened to announce that Steve Appleton, Micron Chairman and CEO, passed away this morning in a small plane accident in Boise," the company's board of directors said in a news release. "Our hearts go out to his wife, Dalynn, his children and his family during this tragic time."

"Steve's passion and energy left an indelible mark on Micron, the Idaho community and the technology industry at large."

All flags were half mast at the Micron campus in Boise Friday morning.

Ada County dispatchers say reports came in of a small plane, with one person on board, on fire before it landed near an airport runway. The plane, a Lancair experimental aircraft, went down



Photos by Joe Jaszewski, Idaho Statesman / MCT

The National Transportation Safety Board, conducts an initial aircraft layout examination inside a hangar.

between two runways. The Lancair is a single-engine prop plane.

The details of what happened are not yet available, but fire crews were called to extinguish the wreckage.

The airport is still open and planes are still able to use a different runway to take off and land, officials say. National Transportation Safety Board officials are at the crash site.

Friday's crash was Appleton's second such accident since 2004, when he crashed a high-performance aerobatic plane in the desert south of Boise.

That crash occurred on July 8, 2004. Witnesses said Appleton and passenger Michael Duffy crawled from the wreckage of that plane after the crash. Appleton was flown by helicopter to a hospital.

Federal officials later concluded that "pilot error" was the cause of the 2004 plane crash.

The National Transportation Safety Board ruled that Appleton failed "to maintain clearance with terrain during descent while conducting an aerobatic maneuver."

— MCT Campus



The crash killed the pilot, Micron CEO Steve Appleton.

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Unemployment rate drops to 8.3%

Obama wants country to continue trend of positive economic growth

By Don Lee
Tribune Washington Bureau

An unexpected burst of job growth last month helped drive down the unemployment rate to its lowest point in three years, raising hopes that the long-sluggish labor market is gaining momentum despite significant challenges to the economy.

The government reported that the

nation's unemployment rate fell to 8.3 percent in January, the fifth consecutive monthly decline, and that employers added 243,000 net new jobs last month, about 100,000 more than what analysts had forecast and the most in nine months.

Some economists cheered Friday's report, calling it a strong signal of better times ahead for American workers.

Other analysts were more cautious, noting that job growth was inflated by the unseasonably warm weather construction reported sizable gains, for instance and that the outlook remains constrained by government cuts, financially strapped consumers and a slowing global economy.

"This is a great surprise," said Heidi Shierholz, an economist at the Econom-

ic Policy Institute. "It was out of context with other things we've been seeing" in the economy, "so we can't be confident that this is the new state of things."

And Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke had described the recovery as "frustratingly slow" in congressional testimony Thursday.

Nevertheless, stocks surged on the news, with the Dow Jones industrial average rising 156 points to 12,862, its highest since the spring of 2008.

The broad-based gains in new jobs reflected robust increases in manufacturing as well as solid additions in professional and business services, such as accounting and engineering, and in the leisure and health care industries.

The unemployment rate was down from 8.5 percent in December and 9.1 percent in August.

The news was welcomed by the Obama administration.

Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis insisted that the improvement wasn't a one-month aberration but a trend that had been building for some time.

Like others in the administration, Solis used the occasion to make a case for extending the payroll tax cuts and emergency jobless benefits beyond their scheduled expiration at the end of this month.

There were 12.8 million unemployed workers in January, with 43 percent of them jobless for more than six months. That's an unusually high percentage that raises serious questions about their employability because skills tend to erode over time.

Analysts said the economy needs to create at least 100,000 net new jobs a month just to keep pace with the growth in the



Oliver Douliery, Abaca Press / MCT

The U.S jobless rate is now back to the level it was when Obama took office in late 2008.

workforce population. The nation lost, on average, about 360,000 jobs a month in 2008 and 2009.

Officially, the recession ended and the economy began recovering in June 2009, but it wasn't until March 2010 that the nation began adding jobs. With January's increase, U.S. payrolls stand at about 5.6 million below what they were at the start of 2008.

But job growth has been picking up slowly since last summer. And Friday's report showed that there was stronger hiring at the end of last year than previously thought.

Officials said employers added 157,000 jobs in November, compared to the 100,000 initially estimated. Job growth in December was revised slightly higher to 203,000 and was more broad-based than was previously indicated as government statisticians, using more complete records, erased the unusually big gains in messenger jobs and added payrolls in other categories.

Office jobs such as accounting and bookkeeping are growing because companies are doing well and they need business services, said Patrick O'Keefe, economic research director at J.H. Cohn, an accounting and advisory firm.

But he said that's not the case with consumers, many of whom remain heavily indebted and have seen their incomes and wealth hurt by weak pay increases and the depressed housing market.

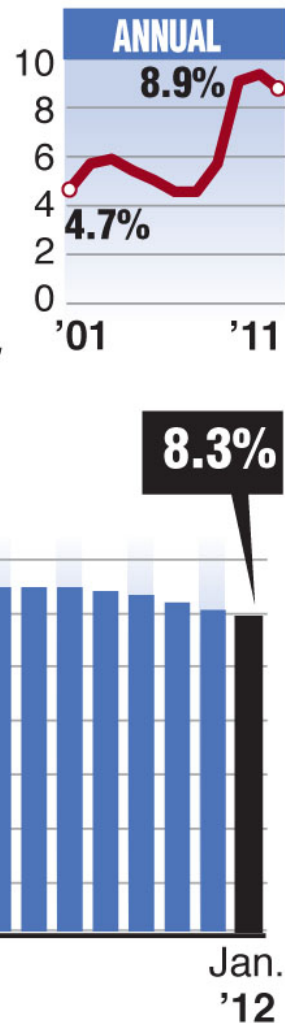
Businesses won't aggressively beef up hiring unless they are confident that they will see stronger demand, he said. And even then, many companies don't have to hire as many people because they can use temporary workers or add hours for the 8.2 million part-time employees who want full-time hours.

"Employers have a need for labor, but they're tentative in their long-term commitment," he said. "They want a date but don't want to get married."

—MCT Campus

Jobless rate

Percent of civilian labor force that is unemployed, by month, seasonally adjusted:



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Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



Kansas City Star / MCT

America, 'land of the free'

Our rights are guaranteed, preserving our freedom

By Shannon Metherell
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There has been so much negative hype these past several years on whether or not America is actually "the land of the free." The answer to this controversy is yes. Even through all the hassle of the government getting into our business like the long lines at the airport for security, and tracking what we do on the Internet through different laws, we must realize that we still have a lot of freedoms that other countries do not.

Of course after the incident of 9/11, airports and other forms of transportation became stricter in their policies to travel. But you have to think of it this way, they only did it in order to protect America as a whole. The terrorists were able to get weapons past security, so in order to keep it safe, we have to take certain precautions. Make sense, right?

We do indeed still have our rights as Americans. Yeah, it is a hassle having to deal with the small things like phone-tapping and safety policies, but you have to remember that we still have our freedoms. For example, we still have our First Amendment rights, the freedom of religion, speech, and press. Just check out YouTube alone. There are millions of small clips or videos that show someone expressing their thoughts and feelings about a certain issue on their mind. Especially this time of year when dealing with the elections, there are plenty of media that supports our freedom of the First Amendment, and our Bill of Rights.

In 2003 Richard Miniter published *Shadow War: The Untold Story of How Bush Is Winning the War on Terror*, demonstrating his views on the good traits about president George Bush, while Eric

Alterman and Mark J. Green wrote *The Book on Bush: How George W. (Mis)leads America*, explaining their opposing view on how George Bush was not so great.

These two books alone show that Americans have the right to write, publish, and speak their minds over a certain topic and not get bashed for it by the government. You are allowed to say that you do not like a specific issue and not have the government at your doorstep to arrest you for it.

Just like our Second Amendment states, "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed," we are allowed to, once we are of age, go buy a weapon and keep it for our personal use if we really want to. I could keep a gun in my car if I really wanted to, and not have anything be held against me.

Clothes is another one. Take fashion for instance. Other than having a school dress code, I am able to walk around with drug paraphernalia designs or an "I hate Obama" shirt on freely. A lot of countries, especially in the Middle East, that do not allowed females to wear what they want. Any dresses worn above the ankles are inappropriate. We have girls wearing shorts and bathing suits whenever we feel like it and not get in trouble. And yet people still complain we are not free?

Another positive thing that has we as a nation have evolved with is diversity. There is no longer a separation between males and females or blacks from whites. After the 13th Amendment passed, different races were allowed to mix together, ending segregation. Take a look at workplaces now. You walk into a McDonalds and see people of all races, sexual orientation and gender working. America has let us come to the point where anyone, no matter the background



Jane Wooldridge, Miami Herald / MCT

Statue of Liberty in New York. Is she greeting immigrants or threatening to torch their boats?

or appearance, can work.

"Diversity gives the workplace a powerful dynamic of collaboration to tackle tasks efficiently," said Adam Garcia a graphic design student at Valencia College. He does have a point. People are unique, so each and every person has a different trait or quality they can bring to a certain company.

So take a second and think about how free America really is. We have our Bill of Rights as Americans, even if there are some glitches in the system. The government has not taken away our freedoms. I personally am happy that we are able to act like we want to, and talk like we want to without the government coming down on us.

America, land of 'for me'

Until everyone is equal, freedom is an illusion

By Neda Hamden
nhamden@valenciavoices.com

Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Do you think our Founding Fathers writing "pursuit of happiness" was on accident? America is a country that has a reputation for our rights and freedom. Only we're not as free as we think. Our judgements of people by their race, gender, and sexual preference hinders everyone from having equal rights.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, women working 41 to 44 hours per week earn 84.6 percent of what men working similar hours earn, and women working more than 60 hours per week earn only 78.3 percent of what men in the same time category earn. Women have been the last ones to earn their full freedom, and are still suffering from it. There has yet to be a female president, and that shows that most Americans consider woman not competent enough to take on such an important role.

"I think we have a free country. People might complain that our rights are controlled by the wealthy one percent in America, but even they can't escape our Bill of Rights and Constitution," said Valencia student Kara Desaulniers.

Sept. 11, 2001 spurred on discrimination and bias against Muslim Americans all over the United States. Allowing our phones to be tapped if we were considered a "threat"; to be stopped at airports for "security checks" -- all of this has yet to be stopped. As a Muslim American myself, I have yet to be treated equally as a citizen, employee, or a student. Prejudice on Muslim Americans that will take decades to wear off.

"We get harassed for what we do and/or say no matter what it is," said Valencia student Steele Jones. "There's no such thing as free, and the government is constantly trying to censor everything."

There are people who are being prohibited from marrying the people they choose, because of our Christian-based laws. If "all men are created equal" as it says in the Declaration of Independence, then shouldn't homosexuals be allowed to marry one another? The opposing viewpoint is comparing gay marriage to bestiality, which contradicts what our country stands for.

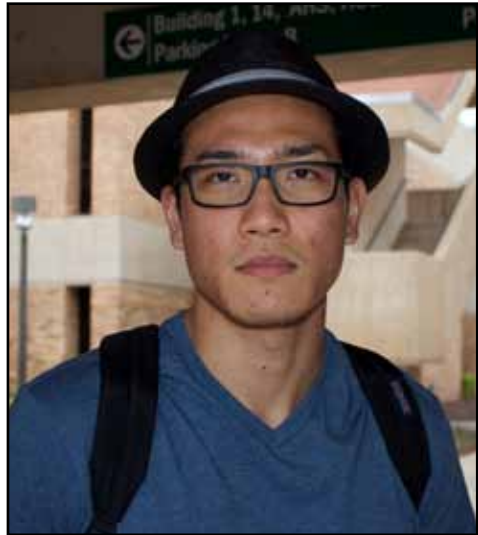
"I think we do have a free country," advisor for the United Nations, Yousef Zeidan said. "If you were to write a respectful opinion piece about how you dislike President Obama, you'd have the chance to publish it in any newspaper in the United States. However, if you were to write in North Korea about their government, you could get in trouble for it."

We don't have equal rights when it comes to race, gender and even those with disabilities. The U.S. Department of Labor reported in 2009 that the jobless rate among people without disabilities was nine percent, while the rate for those with disabilities was 14.4 percent. Although we've come a long way from where we used to be, we still have a lot of work to do.

The fastest way to end discrimination is teaching its impact to children, showing them it's not okay to judge people on their race, gender, or sexual preference. America is supposed to be the "land of the free and home of brave." The least we could do is prove it to be true.

Is America truly a free nation, have we lost our freedom?

Photos and Interviews by James Tutton



"Yes it is, if you compare us to other countries around the world you can tell we have freedom."

— Eric Kim



"I think we lost our freedom for several reasons. There are too many rules limiting our lives."

— Erlanda Beauge



"After serving in the military I've been in countries without freedom, America is free."

— Leon Gaithera



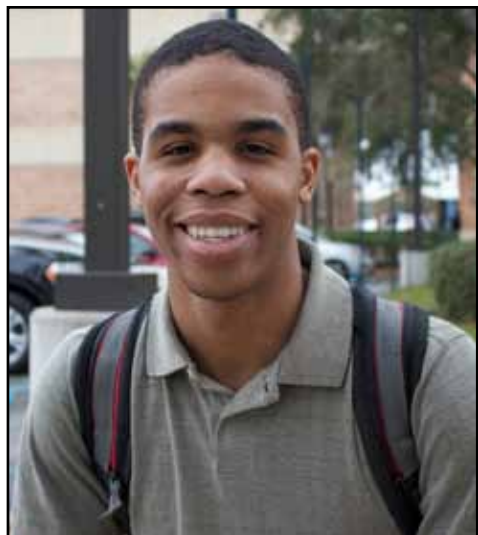
"No longer free. There is a lot of restrictions on our freedoms, and certain things we can't do."

— Monique Medard



"We're not free anymore. Gun rights are being taken away and the judicial system is too strong."

— Chris Thomas



"Considering were it was a hundred years ago, I feel we have a lot more freedom today."

— David Dunbar



"I feel like there is freedom, but you need to have skills to find a job and really live free."

— Andres Beltran



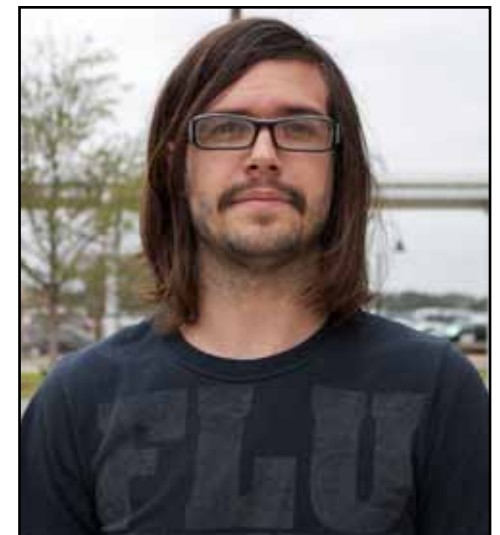
"I believe we are turning to communism, money talks and the rest of the population is screwed."

— Ulga Kudinova



"We are still free compared to other countries, I'd rather live here than anywhere else."

— Scott Calain



"We still have the ability to choose what we want to do with our lives without being told."

— Jonathan Carter

College relationships going the distance

Beating the odds, young couples work on balancing classes and intimacy

By Neda Hamdan
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There's a new trend in college, and it isn't graduating. According to the Communication Research journal, in 2010 nearly half of all college students were in a long distance relationship. The journal also predicted that 75 percent of students will at some point during their college years be in a long distance relationship.

The question is, does this help or hurt students in college? It varies. The compatibility of the couple is the most important factor. Then it's about how much time is spent visiting each other, and keeping in contact while not.

"It depends on every couple, though

it can hurt while they're in college," Herston Milton said. "You have to care about the person and help motivate each other in life."

It is imperative to communicate with each other about how to plan this future apart, and whether both parties agree. Compromises are the essence of a relationship, along with supporting one another.

According to the Center for the Study of Long Distance Relationships, 70 percent of long distance relationships end within six months. To keep a healthy long distance relationship, full trust is required to remain faithful to a partner.

"Even if your relationship is healthy, it can still be a huge distraction," Ledalis Zamao, who has been married for five years,

said. "It takes a lot of work and sacrifice. I'm not saying it's impossible, just very hard."

Being in a long distance situation can help strengthen a relationship by going through obstacles, and pushing through them. Couples can also be each other's support system by supporting each other in multiple situations, from promotions to outright failures.

There is an average of 42,500 marriages during college every year, while there is an average of 2,750 divorces during college each year, according to Degree Central.

"Relationships during college are good because they serve as a support system, and ideally your partner supports and helps you towards your goals," said Laura Zuluaga. "Additionally, they bring variety into your life. This keeps you motivated



Sebastian Alvarez / Valencia Voice

Students look for support in their relationships to deal with the stress of classes and college in general.

during the hard yet fun time."

The average distance between long-distance couples is 125 miles, while the average amount of visits are 1.5 a month, according to the Center for the Study of

Long Distance Relationships.

With a little effort, trust, communication and even spontaneity from each person, both can be a part of the 25 percent and strive for a successful long distance relationship.

Tweets of the Week



braden graeber @hipstermermaid

"Kraft Single and ready to mingle" might be the saddest thing I've said to myself while making a sandwich.



Conan O'Brien @ConanOBrien

Make sure to watch for my commercial during the #SuperBowl. You'll only see it if you're watching a "Sex and the City" re-run on E!.



Seth MacFarlane @SethMacFarlane

The way they rhymed "Madonna" with "you wanna" was terrific. Just tremendous. And a bunch of times! Which was also great. Music is great.



@TheDailyShow

The Daily Show

In their defense, that IS the actual size of his head. (Getty Images)

pic.twitter.com/k5ZQShZQ



jimmy fallon @jimmyfallon

#Tucking is the new #Tebowing. #FallonLiveAfterGame

pic.twitter.com/ZH9muCcv

Promoted by jimmy fallon



Pickup lines for getting popped in the mouth

If I received a nickel
for every time I
saw someone as
beautiful as you,
I'd have five cents.

Are you from
Tennessee?
Because you're
the only ten I see!

Excuse me, but you
have something in
your eye.
Oh wait, that's just
a sparkle.

Well, here I am.
What are
your other
two wishes?

Do you believe in love
at first sight?
Or should I walk by
again?

Excuse me ma'am
you dropped
something
... my jaw.

Was your dad a
baker?
Because you've
got a nice set
of buns.

I must be a
snowflake,
because I've
fallen for you.

Did you have
Lucky Charms for
breakfast?
Because you look
magically delicious!

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Member, Associated Collegiate Press

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Chronicle ‘carries’ box office

Wannabe super heroes from a first-person view



By Fred Lambert
flambert@valenciavoice.com

Documentary-style thrillers have nearly gotten to a point where they’ll no longer be welcomed as a median in film.

“Chronicle,” directed by Josh Trank, is the latest in the camcorder-genre, and unlike some movies in this category, it presents less cheesy excuses for the camera angles.

The story follows three friends at a Seattle high school who stumble upon a mysterious luminescent object underground that endows them with telekinetic powers.

The disturbed main character Andrew (Dane DeHann) establishes in the first scene his intention of filming everything. This is connected to problems in his home life; an abusive, alcoholic dad (Michael Kelly) and a dying mother (Bo Petersen). But the camera seems to represent the barrier Andrew feels between himself and people around him.

The trio’s initial forays into using their powers start as pranks, but they soon realize

that they are becoming stronger. Eventually the strain of Andrew’s personal life becomes great right along with his abilities, leading to a bubbling over of emotions and flying cars. The camera makes Andrew’s deconstruction almost autobiographical; a sort of video blog with a slow building climax.

One of the film’s greatest strengths is character development. Andrew is a believable figure because he has real and uncomfortable problems. The audience is given camera glimpses into his social alienation through not only external forces, bullies smack him around at school and his father beats him mercilessly, but also through the eerie things he shares with the lens when he’s alone.

At one point, Andrew discusses how man is an “apex predator” because of guns and technology, and how apex predators don’t feel bad about slaughtering a lesser species.

When Andrew snaps, a parallel seems evident toward incidents like Virginia Tech and Fort Hood. Human beings are endowed with killing power, and in the hands of a tweaked mind, tragedy is a very real possibility.

“If you give someone like that power, obviously they’re going to lash out,” said



20th Century FOX

Actor Dane DeHaan is joined by Alex Russell and Michael B. Jordan as part of the superhero gang.

Ryan Winters after the movie.

The reason for the camera’s presence is much more established in the storyline than in some documentary thrillers, where the issue comes up, but is fizzled by some pseudo-journalistic duty.

When the climax does occur, Andrew’s ability to film is compromised by the likelihood of him still having a camera, or caring about one. Before the climax, he sometimes floats the camcorder around himself like a drone, giving the audience a smooth, weaving, over-the-shoulder perspective. By the time things explode, director Trank relies on security cameras, police helicopter angles, an

attractive blonde’s video blog, and random spectator footage to piece events together.

The underground cause of the three’s telekinesis is never explained, but that almost suits the film fine, given the limited perspectives of the lenses. Some audience members didn’t buy into another film honing the documentary-style, though, even when it was chopped and screwed with feasible alternating footage.

“The camera views kind of ruined it for me, because they did it from a personal camera the whole time, and that was awful,” said Kaelynne Nill. “Other than that the acting was good.”

Opening Feb. 10

‘The Vow’



Courtesy of FOX Searchlight

Director: Michael Sucsy
Starring: Rachel McAdams, Channing Tatum, Sam Neil, Scott Speedman, Jessica Lange
Rated: PG-13
Running Time: 1hr 55min
Genre: Drama

‘Safe House’



Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Director: Daniel Espinoza
Starring: Denzel Washington, Ryan Reynolds, Brendan Gleeson, Sam Shepard, Vera Farmiga
Rated: R
Running Time: 1hr 44min
Genre: Action, Thriller

Box Office



20th Century FOX

‘Chronicle’

Rated:
PG-13

This Weekend:
\$ 22 million

Total Gross:
\$ 22 million



Courtesy of CBS Films

‘The Woman in Black’

Rated:
PG-13

This Weekend:
\$ 21 million

Total Gross:
\$ 21 million



Courtesy of Open Road Films

‘The Grey’

Rated:
R

This Weekend:
\$ 9.5 million

Total Gross:
\$ 3.5 million

Horror flick makes big splash

'The Woman in Black' gives 'Harry Potter' star new reputation



By Felicia Roopchand
froopchand@valenciavoice.com

While watching the first couple of minutes of the suspense-horror flick, "The Woman in Black," starring Daniel Radcliffe, I couldn't help but internally scream, 'Just use your wand, Mr. Potter!' whenever the young star would have an encounter with the paranormal.

But when Radcliffe started to explore the vine-ridden old Victorian house, I forgot all about Harry and his spells and started to see Arthur Kipps, a widower left to care for his only son while on the verge of losing his job as a lawyer.

"I think [Radcliffe] more than proved himself as a major player in the field. You can watch the movie and honestly forget that he played Harry Potter," said movie-goer Jennifer Fuentes.

"[Radcliffe] was great," said audience member Miriam Martinez, who had never seen Radcliffe in any other movie, including the Potter films.

In order to try to keep his job, Kipps is sent away to a remote village to do paperwork for Alice Drablow, the owner of the eerie Eel Marsh home. The elegance of the mansion was portrayed beautifully yet disturbingly in the various cinematic shots.

The movie opens with a slew of child suicides, varying from jumping out of windows to purposefully swallowing lye. Kipps becomes suspicious, and even more so after having an encounter with a lady dressed in all black that he keeps seeing whenever a child commits suicide. Kipps tries to save the other children in town as well as his own son by trying to solve the mystery of the woman in black.

The movie has a feel of a classic ghost story and the Victorian setting of the film adds to the creepiness of it all. There were quite a lot of the typical jumpy scenes that one expects from a horror movie, but the end of the film is what really sets it apart

from other scary movies.

"What a twist!" said Martinez. The heartbreaking turn of events leaves the movie on a bittersweet note and gives the audience closure, which is hard to come by on horror films in this day and age.

Overall, "The Woman in Black" was more of a chilling ghost story than anything else. There wasn't anything gimmicky about it, which is refreshing if you're looking for a good scare without all the flashy odd and ends.

"It was a breath of fresh air for suspenseful drama and mystery fans," said Fuentes. "It wasn't solely focused on scaring you, although it did a great job at that."



Courtesy of CBS Films

Daniel Radcliffe plays Arthur Kipps, a single parent trying to save his career in new hit movie "The Woman in Black."

5th Valencia Brazilian Film Festival

Head Over Heels
De Pernas pro Ar
THU FEB 9
West Campus Room 3-111
1800 S. Kirkman Road
Orlando, FL 32811
6:30pm reception
7:00pm screening

Waste Land
Lixo Extraordinário
MON FEB 13
Osceola Campus Auditorium
1800 Denn John Lane
Kissimmee, FL 34744
6:30pm reception
7:00pm screening

Smoke Gets In Your Eyes
É Proibido Fumar
TUE FEB 14
West Campus Room 3-111
1800 S. Kirkman Road
Orlando, FL 32811
6:30pm reception
7:00pm screening

If Nothing Else Works
Se Nada Mais Der Certo
THU FEB 16
East Campus Room 6-110
701 N. Eonlockhatchee Trail
Orlando, FL 32825
6:30pm reception
7:00pm screening

Matraga
FRI FEB 17
West Campus Room 3-111
1800 Kirkman Road
Orlando, FL 32811
6:30pm reception
7:00pm screening

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VALENCIA

For trailers, showtimes and directions, visit: www.ValenciaBrazilianFilmFest.com

Moderated by
Visiting Filmmakers
Elisa Tolomelli &
Malu de Martino

An inside look at Valencia's production of 'A Raisin in the Sun'

Powerful issues of racial injustice are only part of this classic American drama

By James Tutton
jtutton@valenciavoice.com

Preparations are underway for a live production of the classic American play, "A Raisin in the Sun" at the Black Box Theater at Valencia's east campus. This play will dive head first into powerfully com-

elling subject matter, with high emotions from complicated characters.

The original production was developed by Lorraine Hansberry, inspired by the struggles of her own family, wrote the play and went on to receive four Tony award nominations when it premiered on Broadway in 1960. Along with the Valen-

cia Theater production's talented cast is guest actor Avis-Marie Barnes who plays the family's main supporter and nurturer, Mama. She is a seasoned performer who has acted professionally in several movies and television programs.

"It's a punch to the gut, and that's what I want," said the plays director, John DiDonna. "I want it to be a punch in the gut from the time it starts to the time it ends. I don't want the audience to have a chance to breathe."

The story follows the problems of an extended African-American family, living together in a cramped and rundown apartment, dealing with racism, poverty, and tragedy during the 1950s. Issues of morality, betrayal and discrimination are sure to strike an emotional cord with those in attendance.

The focus and momentum of the entire production is on Walter Lee Younger, played by drama veteran Parris Baker. He has big dreams, passionate views and the need to find a purpose in his life. He is also under stress at work and home, and when he finally starts to see his dreams come true he is kicked back down by cruel twists of fate.

"When something is well written like this play you can dive into the words, and when you make the words your own, then the emotion will carry," said Parris Baker, who plays Walter. This demanding role is strongly defined and personalized by Baker, who was inspired by the original performance of the revered actor Sidney Poitier.

The rest of the cast has shining moments and conflicting issues that they face and support each other through. Most notably is the supporting role played by the character Mama, whose morally strong spirit perseveres to hold the Younger family together.



Avis-Marie Barnes who plays Mama, sits with Christopher Redman Jr. during an emotional scene.

Issues addressed in this play are still related to issues faced today more than 50 years after it was written and premiered on Broadway in 1959. Originally it was given mixed reviews for focusing on problems found primarily in the black community, making it hard to relate to for white audiences. The truth is that anyone with a shred of empathy can relate to these universal conflicts of poverty, misjudgement and important decisions about life.

The youngest character is the troubled son of Walter named Travis Younger, played by the 11-year-old Christopher Redman Jr. He witnesses the hardships endured by his family throughout the story, and has to sleep on the living room sofa because he doesn't have his own room.

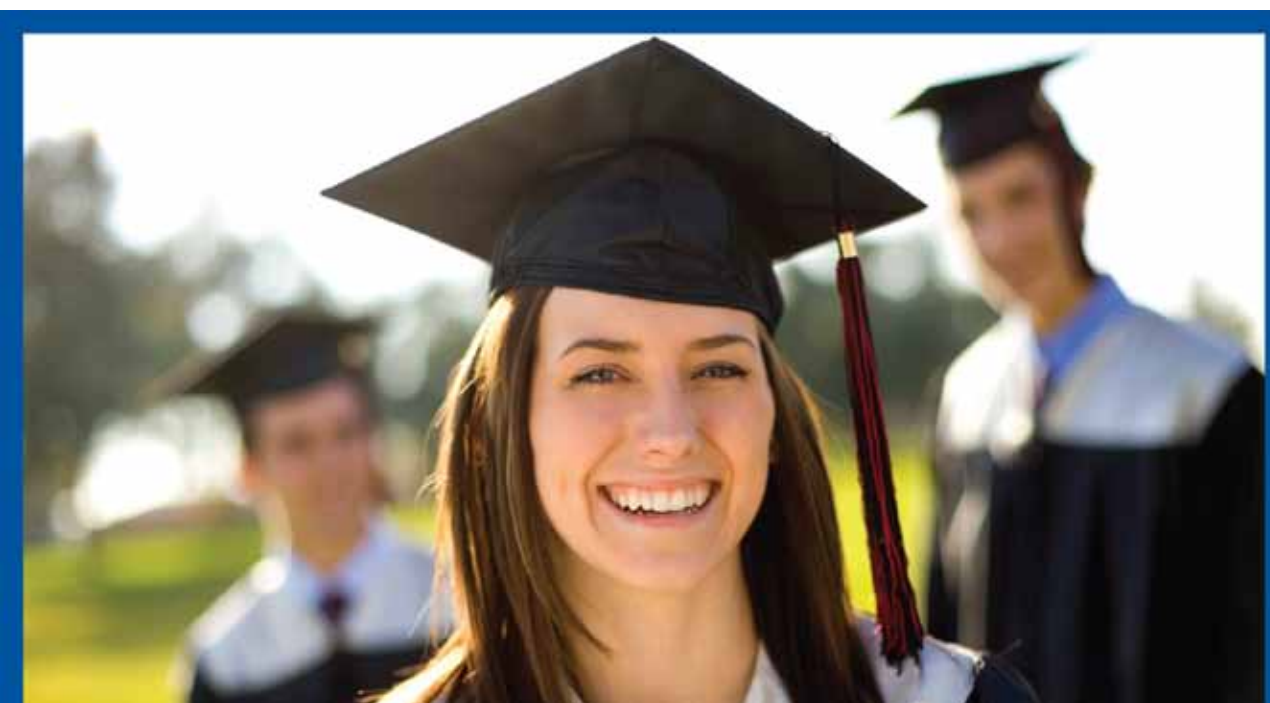
"It teaches him to be appreciative of what he has at this day and time," said Christopher's mother, Alycia Redman. The strong

lessons learned by her son about injustice and double standards can also be shared by anyone who watches this production.

The actors are fine tuning their blocking, the set construction is almost complete, and overall, the production is currently ahead of schedule for opening night. Under the passionate enthusiasm of director John DiDonna, the cast and crew are all more than confident the audience will be treated to a powerfully moving experience.

Tickets are already being sold for this play with a strong recommendation to purchase ahead of time, because days are already being sold out weeks in advance for the small theater. "A Raisin in the Sun" will run from Feb. 15-19 and Feb. 22-26. For more information or to order tickets for the show check out the official web site at <https://www.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?t=tix&e=f5fab8a826ec8f2913e7bfc4522c9f87>

James Tutton / Valencia Voice



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App of the week: Quadrant Standard

By Neda Hamdan
nhamdan@valenciavoice.com

Ever wonder how your android compares to others? Quadrant Standard is a benchmark test that runs on your Android and compares them to other Androids.

Most cell phone users wonder what benchmark tests mean, and where the results come from. The Quadrant Standard tests your CPU (Central Processing Unit) is responsible for interpreting and executing most of the commands from the computer's hardware and software. The I/O (Input/Output) focuses on the keyboard and other types of functions, and the 3D and 2D graphics.

This app is equipped with five different options. Run Full Benchmark consists of a series

of tests, including CPU, memory, I/O and 3D/2D graphics. It only takes a few minutes and will place your Android on a scale compared to other recent Androids with your phone highlighted in yellow.

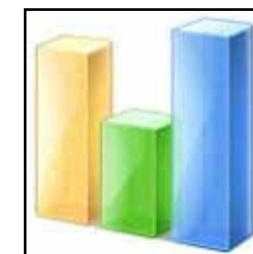
Run Custom Benchmark will be available for the updated Quadrant Standard App. The Application Developer allows you to view all your system's information, including your ROM, processor, processor speed (which is tested by how many megahertz you use), architecture and memory, among other things.

One of the most useful options is the Result Browser which allows you to pick one phone from different manufacturers

such as HTC, Samsung and Motorola, and you can compare each of their phones on a scale to see whose is better.

It also explains the purpose of the application and shows how the phones are tested on a wide scale. There is also an "About" option which shows information about things like the application and developer.

It is unfortunate that this app is only available for Androids, because it would be interesting to compare a variety of phones outside from the Android group. Otherwise, this app is easy, free and practical to use to see if your phone was worth the buy or you decide to upgrade.



Valencia hosts annual film festival with Brazilian American Chamber of Commerce

Valencia College will kick off its Brazilian Film Festival on Feb. 9. The festival will show five films over the next eight days.

"Head Over Heels"

In this 2010 comedy, a wealthy, workaholic businesswoman is forced to undergo a major life change after her husband leaves her and she's fired from her job. She stumbles into her next position, as partner in a decadent sex shop. Director Roberto Santucci's film won the audience award for Best Film from the 2011 Miami Brazilian Film Festival.

"Waste Land"

An uplifting social documentary based around the lives of garbage pickers in Rio de Janeiro, the film stars New York-based artist Vik Muniz, who travels back to his native Brazil to help the garbage pickers, by creating art out of the materials they find. Not only does he change their lives, providing them with money to buy a truck, but he is changed by the experience too. In 2011, the film was nominated for an Oscar for Best Documentary Feature.

"Smoke Gets in Your Eyes"

In São Paulo, a lonely forty-something guitar teacher lives a tedious life in a lower

middle-class apartment, accompanied by her only companions, cigarettes. But when a musician named Max moves in next door, she finds love, and trouble. This film, directed by Anna Muylaert, won four awards at Cinema Brazil Grand Prize, including Best Picture, Best Director and Best Screenplay.

"If Nothing Else Works Out"

This film from director José Eduardo Belmonte invites the viewer to ponder universal themes such as alienation, addiction, identity, loneliness, and unemployment as it follows four down-and-out residents of São Paulo: Leo, a journalist

who has lost his job; Angela, a depressed mom who has spent the electricity money on "medication"; Marcin, a coke dealer who rationalizes "spreading little bits of happiness"; and Wilson, a cabbie in need of a psychiatrist. The film has won a string of awards from the International Rio Film Festival, the Miami Brazilian Film Festival and Brazil's National Cinema Festival.

"Matraga"

In this yet-to-be-released screen adaptation of the novel by Brazilian author Guimarães Rosa, the audience follows heartless landowner Augusto Matraga

who is toppled from his position of power in the Brazilian outback and, having been beaten and left for dead by his enemies, is taken in by two religious farmers. He becomes a God-fearing citizen until a powerful landowner crosses his path. The film won five awards at the 2011 International Rio Film Festival, including Best Film. Producer Elisa Tolomelli will be present to further elaborate on Valencia's sneak preview of Matraga. This film has yet not been rated but contains adult language and graphic violence and is not appropriate for children.

Feb. 9
Love Your Wallet!
Osceola Campus
Auditorium, Bldg. 1
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Feb. 9
Medical Examiner:
Speaking for the Dead
by Dr. Marie Hansen
East Campus
3-113
1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Feb. 13
Perfecting your
Presentation Skills
East Campus
8-101
1:00 p.m. -12:00 p.m.

Feb. 14
Be My Valentine
West Campus
SSB Patio
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Feb. 15
Peer Educators: Safe
Sex and HIV
Awareness
Winter Park Campus
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Feb. 15
A Raisin in The Sun
East Campus
Black Box Theater
7:30 p.m.

Feb. 15
Shawn and Gwenn: A
Boy. A Girl A Virus.
East Campus
Performing Arts Center
1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Community



Courtesy of enzian.org

2/9
Popcorn Flicks in the Park:
Sleepless in Seattle
Central Park, Winter Park
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

2/9
Winter with the Writers:
Mihaela Moscaliuc and
Ilya Kaminsky
Bush Auditorium
Rollins College
7:30 p.m.



Courtesy of rollins.edu

2/10
A Painter’s Paradise:
The Restoration of the
Charleston Farmhouse
Cornell Fine Arts Museum
Rollins College
7:00 p.m.

2/15
Time Management: How Not to Procrastinate
Rosen College of Hospitality Management
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

On-going

2/9-2/13
Best of Broadway 1990-1994
Breakthrough Theatre of Winter Park
419A W. Fairbanks Ave.
Sundays, 3 p.m.
Mondays, Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.



Courtesy of twelve21gallery.com

2/9 - 2/17
Maybe It’s
Still All A Dream
Twelve21 Gallery
Mondays - Fridays
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

2/10 - 4/27
Friday Nights at the Morse
Charles Hosmer Morse
Museum of American Art
Fridays 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

2/9-2/16
Flat Planes
Mondays-Thursdays, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Venue: Seminole State College Fine Arts Gallery
100 Weldon Blvd.

Concerts

2/9
Mishka
8:00 p.m.
The Social



Courtesy of thesocial.org



Courtesy of thesocial.org

2/10
Kaleigh Baker
The Social
9:00 p.m.

2/10
Phat-N-Jazzy 18th Anniversary
The Beacham
10:00 p.m.



Courtesy of thesocial.org



Courtesy of thesocial.org

2/12
Andrea Bocelli
Amway Arena
7:30 p.m.



Courtesy of amwaycenter.com

Oh, Man(ning)!

Giants win
Super Bowl
XLVI, 21-17

Super Bowl coverage,
including Eli's trip to
Disney, continues on
next page...



Manning ousts Brady, for the 2nd time

Giants win 4th Super Bowl in last 25 years, beat Patriots in final minute of game

By Dan Wiederer
Star Tribune

When the drama ended, with a Tom Brady Hail Mary landing incomplete in the end zone, just inches from Rob Gronkowski's fingertips, a Super Bowl pinata erupted at Lucas Oil Stadium.

Silver streamers rained from the roof. Four confetti cannons fired shreds of red, white and blue ribbon upwards. And the New York Giants raced wildly in divergent directions, delirious after their latest championship.

In another suspense-filled classic, the Giants captured Super Bowl XLVI on Sunday thanks to the poise of indisputably elite quarterback Eli Manning, the body control of receiver Mario Manningham and a strange final-minute touchdown by Ahmad Bradshaw that provided a 21-17

victory over New England.

Bradshaw's 6-yard TD run with 57 seconds left capped another remarkable Manning rally, this one in the form of an 88-yard touchdown drive on New York's final series. That magic came four years and two days after Manning led a similarly clutch 83-yard march to beat the Patriots 17-14 in Super Bowl XLII.

Manning's biggest play Sunday came with 3:46 left, a 38-yard bomb down the left sideline that Manningham caught between New England's Sterling Moore and Patrick Chung while barely managing to tap both feet down inbounds.

Eight plays, 50 yards and four Manning completions later, the Patriots allowed Bradshaw to score the season's final points, even with the running back trying to stop but falling backward into the most significant score of his career.

"It's the greatest feeling in my life," Bradshaw said.

His quarterback agreed, experiencing this championship elation for a second time.

For all those years that Brady and the Patriots built their legacy by torturing Peyton Manning, who knew the payback could come like this, with Peyton's younger brother delivering Super Bowl magic in Peyton's home stadium against Peyton's biggest nemeses? Eli finished 30-for-40 for 296 yards Sunday, again delivering a dream comeback and laying claim to a new black Corvette as the game's MVP.

Still, the Lombardi Trophy was the gift he truly coveted and earned.

Sunday's triumph completed an amazing six-game winning streak during which the Giants transformed from a mediocre 7-7 squad in mid-December into the unlikely Super Bowl champs. On Sunday, their defense did enough to contain Brady and his array of receiving targets. The Patriots' 17 points matched their lowest output this season. And the Giants' biggest defensive plays came via an interception by Chase Blackburn with 14:17 left -the game's only turnover - plus a clutch sack by Justin Tuck with 36 seconds remaining. That cost the Patriots 6 yards and their final timeout.

Tuck also provided the game's first fireworks early, pressuring Brady enough to force an intentional-grounding penalty in the end zone. The resulting safety provided a 2-0 Giants lead. And they followed immediately with a 79-yard touchdown drive, capped by a 2-yard Manning to Victor Cruz dart.

"It was salsa time after that, baby," Cruz said.

Brady (27-for-41, 276 yards, two TDs)



Sam Riche / MCT Campus

Mario Manningham catches a crucial pass on the Giants final drive of the game. This catch set up the game winning touchdown rush by Ahmad Bradshaw with 59 seconds left in the game.

was most brilliant on New England's final first half drive, leading a 14-play march on which he completed all 10 of his passing attempts for 100 yards. The final bullet was a 4-yard scoring strike to Danny Woodhead. Amazingly that gave the Patriots a 10-9 lead following a first half that New York seemed to control.

During a two-possession stretch sandwiching halftime, Brady set a Super Bowl record with 16 consecutive completions. Those went to six different receivers and chewed up 154 yards, the Giants temporarily unable to disrupt his rhythm.

But Brady also failed to capitalize in several big moments. In addition to his interception, with a little more than 4 minutes left, he also threw behind a wide open Wes Welker on a second-and-11 from the New York 41, a play that should have gone

for big yardage.

Instead of adding to a 17-15 lead, the Patriots punted, leaving Brady with his second Super Bowl near-miss in five seasons.

"I hope we get back here again," he said. "I've been lucky enough to play in this game five times in the past 10 years. So I'd love to keep coming back and taking a shot."

As thrilling as the Giants-Patriots showdown had been in 2008, this sequel proved equally compelling. The tension lasted to the final play, that championship-deciding bomb from Brady thrown into an end zone mosh pit.

When it landed, the Giants had conquered again.

Said Giants coach Tom Coughlin: "What a wonderful experience it was to see this team come together like they did."

— MCT Campus



Lionel Hahn / Abaca Press / MCT

Justin Tuck (91) and Eli Manning (10) celebrate just moments after the Giants won Super Bowl XLVI.

Two-time Super Bowl MVP comes back to Disney World

Fans flock to see Eli Manning become fifth player to take his second trip down Main Street, Magic Kingdom

By Mary Stevens
mstevens@valenciavoice.com

"I'm going to Disney World!" exclaimed an overwhelmed Super Bowl XLVI most valuable player (MVP), Eli Manning, New York Giants quarterback, after being asked "You just won the Super Bowl, what are you going to do next?" Manning paraded down Magic Kingdom's Main Street Monday afternoon.

With only two hours of sleep, Manning traveled to Orlando and greeted thousands of fans. Mickey Mouse sporting a football uniform sat next to Manning in a red Camaro during the parade.

"It is amazing to see all the number 10 jerseys, the Giants hats, and all the fans supporting the team," Manning said after exiting the parade.

The tradition of going to Disney World after a Super Bowl started with another Giants quarterback, Phil Simms, who made the trip following the 1986 game. Every year after that, the MVP or another player of the winning team has upheld the tradition.

As a two-time Super Bowl MVP, Manning is the fifth player to return to Disney World following a Super Bowl win. He first celebrated at Disney World in 2008 following his Super Bowl XLII win.

Along with the MVP title, Manning received the keys to a 2012 Chevrolet Corvette Grand Sport Convertible Centennial Edition, to celebrate 100 years of Chevrolet history.

Manning was the only Giants player to travel to Disney World. The rest of the team returned to New Jersey and geared up for the ticker-tape parade down Canyon of He-



Super Bowl XLVI MVP, Eli Manning, throws a football to a fan in the crowd, during his parade down Main Street at Disney's Magic Kingdom, Monday Feb. 6.

roes in New York City on Tuesday.

The New York Giants snatched a last minute 21-17 win Sunday over the New England Patriots.

"This one was very special," he said. "We

had to overcome a lot of things throughout the season and I am happy for all my teammates, especially for the guys that are getting the first one like Hakeem Nicks, Victor Cruz, and Mario Manningham."

Manning completed 30 of 40 passes to eight different receivers for 297 yards during Sunday's game in Indianapolis. "Hopefully I have a long career ahead of me," said Manning. "I would like to get an

opportunity to get a few more of these. It's a great feeling."

Giants wide receiver Hakeem Nicks grabbed 10 possessions for 109 yards. During the game, wide receiver Victor Cruz scored a touchdown in the first quarter. Running back Ahmad Bradshaw put the Giants over the top with a touchdown late in the fourth quarter.

"I am enjoying this victory with my teammates and my coaches," said Manning. "We will go back home and enjoy being Super Bowl champions for six months and then we will have another season."

The New York Giants finished the season with a 9-7 record. The team won the NFC East division in the last game of the season against the Dallas Cowboys, to which Manning humbly said, "We need to get better and improve on some things."

The Giants' players received a bonus pay of \$88,000 for winning the Super Bowl, while the Patriots' players received a bonus pay of \$44,000 for making it to the Super Bowl.

Peyton Manning, Eli's older brother, has won a Super Bowl and has been the NFL MVP four times. "Peyton congratulated me after the game. My mom was even dancing at last night's party," said Manning, who now has one more championship than his older brother.

According to Nielsen ratings, 111.3 million Americans tuned in to see Super Bowl XLVI, making it the most watched television show in U.S. history.

Fans at Disney World waited hours for Manning to arrive. Orlando bartender Jamie Fox called in sick to take the day off and see Manning. "I am a Giants fan first, my job is second."



Sam Riche / MCT

Giants RB, Ahmad Bradshaw, falls into the end zone for the game winning touchdown.



The @giants return home as super bowl champions! #allin twitpic.com/8gl6ro



Fans of the New York Giants hold up a sign during their team's 21-17 win over the New England Patriots.



Plane is leaving for NYC. We're coming home!!! SB champs



Thank you New York for not giving up on us we did it we did it we did it, can't nobody in the world say anything I love New York.



Hasn't set in that we won the Super Bowl yet. The parade tomorrow should change that lol. #ChampsBaby!



An ELite QB. A salsa dancing WR. A coach that's been fired 20+ times. A defense playing as 1 great fans ownership and some others= #ALLIN



Wide receivers, Victor Cruz and Hakeem Nicks, hold up the Vince Lombardi trophy.

Mark Cornelison / Lexington Herald-Leader / MCT

Latest Bolt adjusts to new team

Defenseman Mikkelson now tries to learn his role with Lightning

By Bryan Levine
blevine@valenciavoices.com

While driving to practice on Jan. 6, as a member of the Abbotsford Heat (Calgary Flames AHL affiliate), defenseman Brendan Mikkelson received a phone call just as he was expecting, but not the one he thought it would be.

"My girlfriend was driving me to practice, and I got the call. I saw that it was a Calgary area code, and I thought 'Oh, alright. I'm going to get called up right now.' I saw a defenseman had gotten hurt in Calgary the night before," said Mikkelson. "The conversation started going, and I thought 'Wait, this isn't a call-up!'"

Mikkelson, a former 31st overall draft pick, was told he was traded to the Tampa Bay Lightning in exchange for Blair Jones.

"They talked to me, and explained that this was going to be a good move for me in my career," said Mikkelson.

Four days later, Mikkelson not only found himself a long way British Columbia, Canada, but also on an NHL roster.

"It's been pretty easy to adjust here. The only thing I was really missing was a pair of flip-flops. Luckily I didn't have my summer clothes buried too deep in my closet."

At the time of his trade, Mikkelson ranked second among Heat defensemen, with three goals and 12 assists. 11 games into his Lightning career, Mikkelson has yet to

record a point, but he averages over 13 minutes of ice time, and has a rating of plus-three.

"We're slowly getting to know him. I always like to give a player time and opportunities to show us who he is," said head coach Guy Boucher. "He brings us mobility. He's mobile with the puck. He's

mobile without the puck. He's got a great shot, a smart one, that moves through people."

Boucher has given Mikkelson opportunities on the team's second power play unit, including 1:43 of power play ice time in the Lightning's win, Saturday night.

"Right now we have him on the power play, because he can take that pressure up there. I'm always throwing him into different kinds of opportunities, and he always answers extremely positively," said Boucher, whose team's power play is the 27th ranked in the NHL.

Mikkelson has been able to easily transition into his role on the Lightning, but not without help from his teammates. Fellow defensemen, and first year Lightning, Matt Gilroy has given Mikkelson a few words of encouragement.

"He's done a great job. It's a new system, new team, and a new coaching staff. He's done a terrific job, and has completely earned his ice time," said Gilroy.

"It's been an adjustment, getting used to new teammates, a new city, and new coaches. But, I think as the days go by, you chip away at a few things and start to feel comfortable around everyone," said Mikkelson.

The Lightning began a four game skid just as Mikkelson joined the team, but since then, the Lightning are 6-0-1 in the last seven games. Mikkelson and his teammates are entering the home stretch of the season, as they look to make a late playoff push.



Brendan Mikkelson checks Kleth Ballard of the Vancouver Canucks during last season.

Kevin Sullivan / Orange County Register / MCT



After scoring his second of three goals, Saturday night, Martin St. Louis (26) celebrates with some of his teammates.

St. Louis reaches 900th game

By Anisha Tandon
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Martin St. Louis not only took the ice Saturday night, for the 900th time in his career, but he also netted his first hat trick in nearly five years.

As the lightning ended their series against the Florida Panthers, St. Louis took home his fifth hat-trick of his career, scoring two goals in the second period and the final goal of the night at 19:39 of the third period.

"Weird things happen sometimes, out of all the games I could have done that it was my 900th game, so it's fun" said St. Louis of his performance against the Florida Panthers.

"Couldn't happen on a better night, I think he hasn't scored a hat trick in five years. It happens tonight," said Lightning head coach Guy Boucher of St. Louis fifth career hat trick.

The first two of St. Louis' goals against the Panthers, were scored with an assist from Lightning Captain Vinny Lecavalier and Ryan Shannon.

"He really deserves it, he had a great game tonight, and he really helped us out. And his 900th

game obviously makes it extra special for him" said Lecavalier of his 11-year teammate.

St. Louis played his first two NHL seasons with the Calgary Flames, until he became a free agent in 2000, which is when he signed with the Tampa Bay Lightning, where he became the alternate captain.

St. Louis is currently tied with teammate Steven Stamkos for the longest point scoring game streak, with eight games each.

With a hat trick against the Panthers, St. Louis said, "I feel like I haven't scored like two goals in a game in a long time. It's nice to get on the scoreboard and help your team win."

This season has become full of accomplishments for St. Louis, beginning with his 300th lightning goal against the Panthers on Nov. 26. He also earned his 800th career point against the New York Islanders, Dec. 8. St. Louis' third longest active streak was broken against the New York Rangers, when he sat out due to a hockey puck to his face, from teammate Dominic Moore, his streak ended at 499 games.

"It's fun, on a weekend night and my kids are here, so it's pretty exciting" said St. Louis.

AP Photo / Chris O'Meara

Lady Knights look to rebound

UCF starters push team to defend their championship against Tulsa

By Lawrence Laguna
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Coming off a two-game losing streak, the University of Central Florida women's basketball team pulled off a victory against Tulsa on Thursday night.

The home win of 54-48 at the UCF Arena was largely provided by the leadership of three main players -- Aisha Patrick, Kayli Keough, and Gevenia Carter.

These three led the Knights by example this season, heading into the game as winners of three straight over the Golden Hurricanes and hosting Tulsa for the first time in three years.

The trio of starters took control of the game leading their team in points, rebounds, and minutes played.

"We were playing together and having fun, and hard work pays off," said guard Gevenia Carter. "Boxing out, limiting turnovers, and getting more possessions was key for us tonight."

Each of the three lady Knights provided for a combined 39 of the 54 points UCF put up, giving their team a great advantage throughout the game.

Kayli Keough had a fast start in the first half, putting up 11 points and four rebounds alone, leading all scores.

"Just able to find spots, and my teammates found me, and I was able to knock them down. We gelled really well as a team, knowing where each other is going to cut," said Keough.

UCF gained the momentum

early on by managing to get open looks, collecting offensive rebounds for second chance points, and having great energy off the bench.

The bench only contributed a season-low two points overall in duration of the game, but guard Aisha Patrick believed that the spurts of energy was key.

"Our bench brings us energy, it doesn't always have to be points. It can be from defensive positions, blocks; all of that is energy and that is good for us," said Patrick, who had a double-double with 12 points and 11 rebounds. "They're a big contribution to us."

Holding down Tulsa to a field goal percentage of 29 percent in the first half, the trio knew they had to play the second like it was a brand new game.

"My shots weren't falling in at first, but my teammates just kept encouraging me to keep shooting and they'll fall, and that's what I did," said Carter, who led her team with 14 points.

These three starters again showed why they have continued to work consistently throughout the season to average top rankings in the Conference USA. Coach Joi Williams complimented the performance of her players.

"Our defensive effort was pretty good," said Williams. "The big thing that stood out was the way we came out with a lot of energy and played aggressively to execute our defensive game plan, so I'm really proud for that."



Mary Stevens / Valencia Voice

The Lady Knights break out of a huddle during their last home game against Tulsa.

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