



Baseball  
season  
starts up,

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# ValenciaVoice

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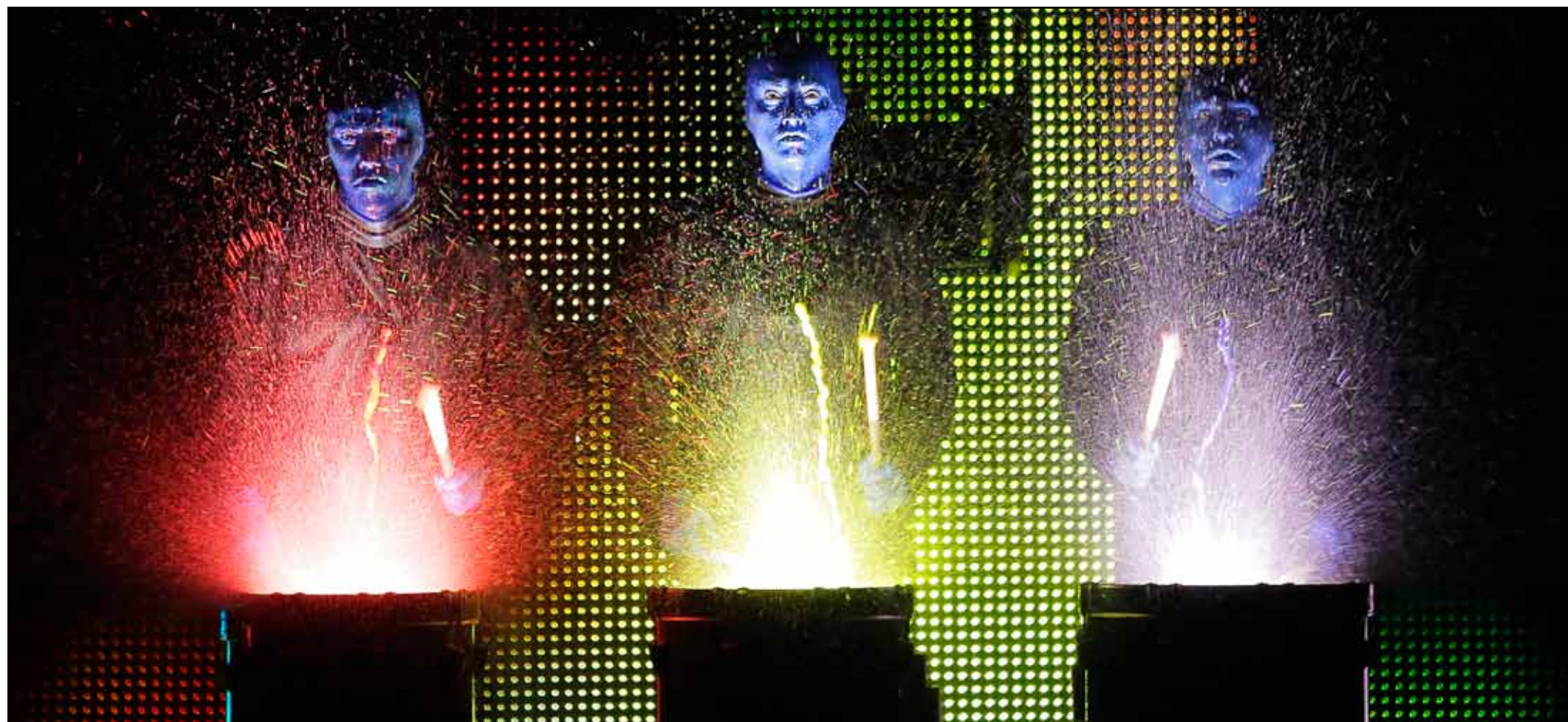
Volume 15, Issue 6

www.ValenciaVoice.com

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Clarkson  
performs,

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Courtesy of Universal Studios Orlando

Blue Man Group's long running theatrical productions are performed in New York, Boston, Chicago, Las Vegas, Berlin, Oberhausen, Stuttgart, Orlando and Tokyo.

## Little blue men get giant upgrade

Updated version of 'Blue Man Group' includes new stage, music, technology

By Jeremy Williams  
jwilliams@valenciavoices.com

Universal Studios is bringing an updated version of the live show "Blue Man Group" to the Sharp Aquos theatre starting Friday, Feb. 24, incorporating a new stage, original new

music and new technology.

"This show will take one of Universal Orlando's most popular experiences to a whole new level," said Alice Norsworthy, Executive VP of Marketing and Sales. "It's the perfect compliment to the incredible entertainment we offer at our destination."

A special presentation was held on Thursday to introduce parts of the new show to the press, as well as a select group of fans, and also allowed them to meet and ask questions to one of the creators of the show and original Blue Man, Phil Staton.

— 'Blue Man Group' continued on page 14

## 'Freedom of the press'

Florida's law gives journalists many benefits

By Brittany Rose  
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Central Florida News 13 anchor Adam Longo made a special trip to the Valencia East Campus on Thursday to discuss freedom of the press and the benefits of being a journalist specifically in the state of Florida.

"The public records laws are the most interesting thing about covering stories in Florida," said Longo.

As one of the main reporters at CFNews 13 on the Casey Anthony case from the moment that it started to the last day of the trial, Longo was able to learn firsthand about what exactly was public record in the state of Florida and how a journalist was able to get a hold of it.

Longo explained that court discovery had much to do with the public being able to find out a lot about the case against Casey Anthony. Court discovery essentially means that all evidence and information in a case must be shared between the prosecution and defense teams. Once that occurs, it is then made public record.

"With the Casey Anthony

case, there was something new to report every day," said Longo. "I would come into work at 8 a.m. many days with no new information, but by 11 a.m. there would be something new that happened."

Longo pointed out that law and journalism are two careers that complement each other. One could still exist without the other, but neither would be made as interesting if the other didn't exist.

"Limitations stink as a journalist," said Longo before discussing Florida Statute 119, which interprets exactly what is public record in the Sunshine State.

Longo explained that some people may try to hide or keep information from a journalist because they see the press as intrusive, but that they may not always be able to do that, which is why getting familiar with Florida Statute 119 is important for a journalist.

"People need to be challenged about this sometimes," said Longo. "The law wouldn't allow you to access public records if it shouldn't happen. If you don't ask the questions, you don't get the answers."

Top L-R: Bryan Levine / Valencia Voice; Felicia Roopchand / Valencia Voice

# Legal procedures explained

## Latest court technology presented to students at Valencia

By Joy Inzitari  
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The Valencia Legal Society hosted a presentation on Courtroom Technology at East Campus, presented by the Honorable Orange County Court Judge Antionette Plogstedt.

Twenty seven paralegal and pre-law students filled the lecture room to learn about the latest technologies that are presently used in local courthouses.

Students learned that with 65 judges and approximately 67 courtrooms in the Ninth Judicial Circuit, which is comprised of Orange and Osceola counties, there is a great need to use various technologies that are available today.

The court's website, [www.ninthcircuit.org](http://www.ninthcircuit.org), has some features that may be accessed.

JACS (Judicial Automated Calendaring System) is an online calendaring system used by lawyers and judges to schedule hearing times, judicial dockets, jury service information and assistance, self help information for individuals who are handling matters without representation of an attorney, information for attorneys and teachers, and audio and visual webcasts.

The court has a central location containing all the equipment to receive, transmit, route and display all of the court's audio and video. The audio-video staff can test and monitor all of the feeds at one location without interrupting any court proceedings.

Plogstedt pointed out that for the Casey Anthony case they had local, state, national and international news agencies to work with. And their small staff (due to budget cuts), which is very talented, carried everything out without a hitch.

"They had a few people who handled a large sea of journalists who wanted access to information," Plogstedt said.

Electronic filing was also covered in the presentation. In the Federal Courts, cases are filed by lawyers electronically (through email), orders are received back electronically, and notices from either side are



Brittany Rose / Valencia Voice

Judge Antionette Plogstedt informed the audience, mostly made up of pre-law students about court technology.

received electronically. The electronic filing system appears to be working smoothly in Federal Courts.

"Some of our courts in the state have started using electronic filing such as probate, business court, and circuit civil," said Plogstedt. "Some of it is optional where you may choose to electronically file or manually file. And there are pros and cons where you have two systems. State courts are not consistent like the Federal Courts. Every state runs their courts individually. And each county of the state with each independent clerk of court are using technology a little different."

Due to concerns of protecting confidential information, state courts are being cautious and thoughtful before they go completely to electronic filing.

When asked by a student if she finds handling all the technology details to be more work than it was for her in the past, Judge Plogstedt answered, "There are pros and cons. It is definitely a better system overall, and probably not any harder on any of us. You just have to be flexible, accept the technology, embrace it, and be part of the solution to keep improving."

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# Valencia created films showcased

## Big names bring taste of Hollywood to 3 Orlando-original movies

By Brittany Rose  
brose@valenciavoice.com

The 17th Annual Valencia Film Festival kicked off on Thursday night at the East Campus with three short movies followed by a feature film with messages that left the audience thinking.

"All of these films were made by Valencia students," said Ralph Clemente, head of the Theatre Department. "The featured films were partnered with industries."

The night started off with the short film "Moments Like These," which lead the audience through the life and death of a son through his father's eyes, followed by a moment with the son's young child who lived on.

"I wanted this film to show what comes from being a good father," said director Jerney Hicks before explaining the sense of legacy he was trying to bring across in the first short.

"Welcome Home" was the second short film, written and directed by spouses Joshua and Loren Marie Story, which depict a Marine veteran's struggle to find himself after coming home from the war.

"The inspiration was from self because I was a Marine," said Joshua Story, who played the main character in the film, before members of the audience corrected him with a kind reminder of "Once a Marine, always a Marine." This led Story to smile and agree.

The final short film, "The Journal," had a message that was slightly hard to grasp until Alex Bright, the writer and director, explained the story behind it.

It is based off of an online novel Bright had written about a young man who suffered from depression and an estrangement from his parents before his tragic death. His

private journal is later brought to his mother, which clues her into the fact that he had been gay and was hiding it from his family.

"It's really about not wanting to die without your family and friends knowing who you are," said Bright. "The short film is an introduction to more, if it is accepted."

Jazzmin Band, a smooth jazz quartet, treated the audience to a live performance during the intermission, playing songs which were part of the soundtrack to the upcoming featured film, "My Fair Lidy."

The feature portrayed the story of a young man trying to make some extra cash to help his girlfriend by temporarily becoming a drag performer. Temporarily turns into full time and before he knows it. Lidy is being re-awakened to his dream of being an actor and forming a close friendship with the successful drag performer, Miss Sal, while losing old friendships at the same time.

"What I loved about the movie was that Lidy doesn't turn gay in the end," said Leigh Shannon, one of the producers and also the

actor who played Miss Sal. "He remains the straight guy who just followed his dream."

"My Fair Lidy" had the audience completely engaged from beginning to end. Laughter and gasps could be heard throughout the theatre and various times during the showing, leading one to believe that the movie had done its job. It got the audience invested in the characters, which was a great thing considering that the film had only taken 18 days to film.

"This was a timely story that we could get people to get behind," said Sandi Bell, the Executive Producer, after making mention of all of the gay teen suicide that were happening around the country at the time that she had gotten the script.

"My Fair Lidy" has recently been picked up by Blairwood Entertainment, which will soon be showing the film in Berlin. The cast and producers are hopeful that it will do well. "To me, life is really about love," said Clemente. "This film really had something to say."



Valencia College first year film student, Jon Longstaff takes donations for future film productions.

James Tutton / Valencia Voice



Student volunteers assist with handing out food during the FAFSA Frenzy at Osceola Campus.

## Frenzy for financial aid

### FAFSA helps students through grants, loans

By Jazmin Rodriguez  
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FAFSA Frenzy February is here! The primary goal is "to help students who plan to attend college or are already attending," said Daniela Vargas, a staff member of the FAFSA Frenzy crew. She and many others came together on Jan. 8 in the SSB building to help students fill out their FAFSA applications and answer any questions students might have.

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is a financial aid form that students must fill out annually in order to become eligible for grants, scholarships and loans.

Staff members prepared several tables outside of room 142 with inviting treats for students like chips, fruit snacks and assorted beverages. Before students could begin the application process, they were required to sign up for a Personal Identification Number along with their accompanying parents.

The process was simple and began with students signing in and filing into the room to commence the application procedure. "This gives students the opportunity to speak with financial advisers, so they can better understand the process," said staff member Amanda McGlothlin.

Though there were only a handful of participating students, the advisers were prepared to be of assistance. Students were encouraged to bring 2011 income information (taxable and untaxed income), Social Security Card, Driver's License, Alien Registration Card (eligible non-citizens) and lastly, parental information for each of said documents (if student is a dependent). Bringing these items will help the students easily fill out the needed information for the FAFSA.

There are two other FAFSA Frenzy days where students from multiple campuses have the opportunity to get assistance. The next one is set up for Feb. 17 at the Osceola Campus and the final one is on the 22nd at the East Campus.

Staff member Angel Sanchez stood outside the SSB building encouraging students to not wait until the last minute to sign up. "Even applying on the last FAFSA Frenzy day is waiting too long, because the application deadline for FAFSA is March 15 and it might not get processed in time," he said.

Students not only have the benefit of filling out their FAFSA, they'll have the chance to win a free laptop; there is one drawing at each FAFSA Frenzy event. Also, applying early every year can increase students' financial aid award.

Jazmin Rodriguez / Valencia Voice

# President visits West Coast

## Obama's fund raising trips are criticized by GOP opponents

By Kathleen Hennessey and  
Christi Parsons  
Tribune Washing Bureau

President Barack Obama spent the better part of the last week rubbing elbows with the Hollywood and tech industry A-list and being serenaded by Grammy winners on an \$8 million-plus fundraising tour of the West Coast that helps explain why he is on track to set a record for campaign donations this year.



Greg Gilbert, Seattle Times / MCT

Obama arrives on Air Force One at Paine Field in Washington, campaigning for the 2012 election.

But as his motorcade shut down several blocks of traffic in one posh Orange County neighborhood, a bystander expressed the resentment that inevitably trails a president on such a purely political mission:

"That's our money at work," the woman shouted at the president's 17-vehicle procession.

And, indeed, Obama's fundraising success \$29 million in January, the campaign announced Friday relies heavily on the panoply of presidential perquisites, armored limousines, helicopters, Air Force One.

As presidents and their campaigns are required to do under federal election rules, the Democrats will reimburse the government for part of the cost of Obama's travel. They've handed over more than \$1.5 million so far this election cycle.

But although that's a considerable sum, it's nowhere near the actual cost of transporting the leader of the U.S. and all the people and equipment that have to move along with him.

A traveling White House entails a huge team of advance workers, vehicles, military and civilian personnel, as well as a vast security network. The presidential plane, a modified Boeing 747, costs at least \$57,000 per hour to operate, the amount the Air Force publicly estimated in 1998.

Under federal rules that have been in force for decades, the president's campaign reimburses the government at a much lower rate the equivalent of the commercial airfare for himself and any staff who are traveling for fundraising or other nonofficial work, as well as their costs for food and lodging.

Whichever party holds the White

House, it's often hard to tell what rankles the opposition party more: the incalculable value of incumbency or the requirement that they, as taxpayers, foot part of the bill.

"It's been one nonstop campaign trip after another," House Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, complained this week when he was at work in the Capitol and Obama was headed to the first of four fundraisers of the day.

Obama's fundraising blitz demonstrated the problems and the perks that come with the office.

After waking up at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Thursday, Obama didn't have to slog through the snarl of morning traffic in Los Angeles.

Instead, the president was shuttled to a nearby park where several helicopters were waiting for him, his staff and the media that trail him. What could have been a two-hour trip to an Orange County donor's oceanfront home took just under 40 minutes.

That pace makes these high-maintenance trips worth it. Taking account of the time the president spent at campaign events and en route to them this week, Obama was raising nearly \$6,000 per minute.

Obama had eight fundraisers on his schedule before his return home late Friday, with the money divided between his campaign and the Democratic National Committee. The events included an appearance in Los Angeles with the band Foo Fighters and one in San Francisco with singers Chris Connell and Al Green.

Obama supporters note that the other side also plans to raise prodigious sums, including hundreds of millions given to "super PACs" that back GOP candidates.



Ken Lambert, Seattle Times / MCT

President Barack Obama delivers remarks at Boeing's 787 airplane assembly facility on Feb. 17.

And White House press secretary Jay Carney said the president's schedulers had compressed as many fundraising events as possible into the trip to minimize the toll on the president's time.

"The White House abides by all of the rules that govern how campaign costs are picked up by the campaign. And that's absolutely the case with this trip," Carney said. "There's a fairly complex process by which campaign costs are allocated."

The basic rationale for the allocation rules is that presidents in the modern age have no choice but to live and travel in extreme security. If a campaign had to pay the full cost of any nonofficial travel, presidents would be confined to the White House, or would simply find ways to deem all of their travel "official."

"We do it absolutely by the book and in the same manner that President (George W.) Bush did and President Clinton did," Carney said.

Of course, those presidents, too, faced criticism from opponents who aimed to

portray them as shirking official duties and wasting tax dollars on campaign-related travel.

Ronald Reagan was the last president to have limited personal involvement in re-election fundraising. Each of the last four presidents has headlined an increasing number of money events, scheduled ever earlier in the presidential term.

George H.W. Bush hosted his first re-election fundraiser a year before Election Day, according to Brendan Doherty, a Naval Academy political scientist who studies presidential campaigns. By contrast, the DNC started paying for Obama's political travel in April of last year, about 18 months out.

The dollar limits on contributions to candidates an individual can give \$2,500 for the primary campaign and \$2,500 for the general election are small relative to the costs of a campaign, Doherty said. That helps push candidates to spend more and more time fundraising.

— MCT Campus

# Magna Carta now in English

Historic document translated  
by National Archives for masses

By Tish Wells  
McClatchy Newspapers

To most Americans, England's "Magna Carta," or "Great Charter," is a dead-tree document from the 13th century. Written in medieval Latin and dealing with arguments between long-dead kings and their nobles, the document is impenetrable.

On Friday, the National Archives in Washington, D.C., brought it into the 21st century with a new interactive exhibit.

Why should Americans care about this charter? Read up on the founding fathers and the American Revolution.

"If you read the early writings of Hamilton, Jefferson and Adams, and Madison, many times they say, it's because of the Magna Carta that we're doing this (rebellious against England)," says David M. Rubenstein, who loaned the document to the National Archives. He is the co-founder and managing director of the Carlyle Group.

The Magna Carta was born out of dispute. In 1215, the English nobility at odds with King John (known to many as the Prince John of the Robin Hood legends) had him sign the Magna Carta, which limited the powers of the monarchy. The document included "the right to habeas corpus, that punishment was proportionate to the crime involved, (and) no taxation without representation," says Rubenstein. On display is the charter of 1297 signed by Edward I, John's grandson, which is viewed as a foundation for English law.

The new display case is found in the west Rotunda gallery of the National Archives. The Magna Carta is flanked by two interactive computer terminals where, by touching a screen, visitors can read the document in English, discover how it applies to American legal history, and see who has cited the importance of the document.

Rubenstein first visited Washington on a



David M. Rubenstein, U.S. National Archives / MCT

**On February 17th, the restored Magna Carta will again be on display at the National Archives.**

class trip in 8th grade and is passionate about American history. He recently donated \$7.5 million to the repair of the Washington Monument after earthquake damage. He bought the document at a Sotheby's auction from millionaire Ross Perot. The original owners had possessed it for 500 years but had to sell it to pay taxes.

"In recent years I've bought some other documents that are early American historical documents that are important in American history, but many of these documents, to me, are based in Magna Carta principles," says Rubenstein.

—MCT Campus

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# Iran to cut oil trade to France, Britain

## Gas prices set to rise as actions of nuclear sanctions intensify

By Patrick J. McDonnell  
Los Angeles Times

Iran said Sunday that it was cutting off oil exports to France and Britain in a pre-emptive strike against European economic sanctions, while top U.S. and British officials warned against a military attack on Iran's disputed nuclear program.

Iran's retaliatory oil ban was the lat-

est instance of high-stakes brinkmanship surrounding Tehran's nuclear ambitions. Iran says its program is solely for peaceful purposes, but the U.S. and many of its allies suspect the goal is to develop weapons.

Speculation has intensified in recent weeks about a possible Israeli or U.S. strike on Iranian nuclear sites, even as an apparent shadow war rages featuring assassinations of Iranian scientists, sabotage of Iran's nuclear technology and recent bomb plots that targeted Israeli diplomats in India and Georgia and, authorities suspect, in Thailand.

On Sunday, British Foreign Minister William Hague and Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, made a conscious effort to cool down the rhetoric, backing the current recipe of diplomacy and economic sanctions against Iran to resolve the looming crisis. Their message seemed as much aimed at Israel as the Iranians.

"None of us want Iran to have nuclear weapons. (But) I don't think it would be a wise thing at this moment ... for Israel to launch a military attack on Iran," Hague told the BBC. "I think Israel like everyone else in the world should be giving a real chance to the approach we've adopted of very serious economic sanctions and diplomatic pressure and the readiness to negotiate with Iran."

Across the Atlantic, Dempsey suggested that Iran could still be dissuaded from pursuing nuclear weapons. "We think the current path we're on is the most prudent path at this point," Dempsey said on the CNN program "Fareed Zakaria GPS."

The Joint Chiefs chairman voiced concern that an Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear

infrastructure could prompt Tehran to retaliate against U.S. targets in the Persian Gulf or Afghanistan, where the U.S.-led war against the Taliban continues.

An Israeli attack could set back Iran's nuclear program "probably for a couple of years," Dempsey acknowledged, echoing testimony given to a Senate committee last week by James R. Clapper, director of National Intelligence. But Dempsey made it clear that U.S. policymakers considered such a move "destabilizing."

In the interview, Dempsey described Iran as "a rational actor," in contrast to the nation frequently depicted in the West as a fanatical regime that, once armed with a nuclear weapon, would not hesitate to use it on Israel, however irrational such an act might appear. Experts agree that any such Iranian attack would trigger a devastating response from Israel, which is widely believed to have an extensive nuclear arsenal.

In Tehran, Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi also opted for conciliatory words on Sunday, declaring that the incendiary dispute could be defused through negotiations.

"We are seeking to find a way out of Iran's nuclear issue in such a way that it would be 'win-win,'" Salehi was quoted as saying by Iran's Mehr news agency. "We understand the other side's situation and are aware that the other side is seeking ... to come out of the issue honorably."

Iran has agreed to a new round of talks on the issue with the United States, Britain, France, Russia, China and Germany.

Nonetheless, Iran said Sunday that it was cutting off oil supplies to France and Britain in retaliation for a coming European Union oil embargo that is part of the



Keith Myers, Kansas City Star / MCT

**America will have to step up its refining capability to avoid high prices of gas in result of Iran conflict.**

punishing new series of sanctions linked to the Islamic Republic's nuclear program.

The Iranians insisted that they will have no problem finding alternative clients for their crude.

"We have our own customers and replaced British and French companies with other firms," said Oil Ministry spokesman Alireza-Nikzad Rahbar, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

The EU has announced a ban on purchases of Iranian oil as of July 1. The date was put off until the summer to minimize the impact on European nations, especially Greece, Italy and Spain, that have ailing economies. Published reports indicate that French and British suppliers had already

reduced purchases of Iranian oil and had begun lining up alternative sources, suggesting that the Iranian cutoff could have a largely symbolic effect.

Why Iran decided to cut sales only to Britain and France and not impose a European Union-wide ban remained unclear.

Saudi Arabia, the world's No. 2 oil producer and a bitter regional rival of Iran, has offered to supply additional oil to the market.

Though oil is Iran's major source of income, the Oil Ministry says sales to the EU amount to only 18 percent of crude exports. Other major markets include China and India.

—MCT Campus



Bill Roth, Anchorage Daily News / MCT

**The high price of gas is an international issue.**



Brian Corn, Wichita Kansas / MCT

Using whatever transportation necessary to escape winter.

# Keep snow up north

## Frostbite, salted roads, cabin fever stay away

By Jeff Shedden  
jshedden@valenciavoiced.com

One of the benefits of global warming is that I can wear short sleeves in February. I feel bad for the poor, confused polar bears floating towards Argentina on runaway ice floes, I really do, but I also respect that cold weather and myself are always going to be at odds.

There are those who treat the ice and snow as a wonderful treat. They like to build snow forts and go ice skating and blah blah blah. These people are incorrect and their opinions instantly have

no value. There is nothing good that can ultimately be attributed to cold weather.

It's not unheard of to read about a multiple car pile-up caused by vehicles hitting a patch of "black ice," but I can't think of so much as a tricycle overturning due to "black-warm-sunny-day."

I used to live in the Sacramento area of Northern California. There's no snow, but it does get more or less "cold" in the winter months. The problem arises when one needs to commute a mere 100 miles east to Reno, Nevada. This requires a quick trip across the mountains, often necessitating putting chains on the tires of your vehicle

for all of nine minutes. This becomes even worse when there's no police manning the mandatory chain checkpoint, so you end up dealing with trying to drive with snow chains plus the added challenge of dodging the jackasses coming down the mountain sideways because they thought they could just skip the chains altogether.

I even went through a "small town U.S.A." phase and decided to move to Alva, Oklahoma and experience a sort of "getting away from it all" period. This was nice at first. The first winter was cold, but still rather mild. I became complacent.

Fast-forward one year later.

I had to wake up quite early to go to work, and around 5:00 a.m. I stepped out of my house to a brisk, clear, dark morning. By 8:00 a.m., Jack Frost had taken a big diarrhea dump all over the whole town. I spent most of the next two months doing nothing

but spreading quick-melt everywhere and falling on my unpadded behind.

It gets even worse.

The price of natural gas skyrocketed that year, and I got slapped with a mind-boggling \$500 gas bill. Now obviously there was some sort of mistake, since my only two gas appliances were my floor heater and my water heater. It was probably a bad idea to argue like I did, because there was no law in Oklahoma preventing the gas company from cutting you off in the dead of winter. Now it's time to use your imagination. Imagine an outside temperature of a single degree and an inside temperature of not much more. Now imagine trying to figure out how to get clean when you have no hot water and only a clawfoot tub with no shower.

Two months later I had moved to Miami where I could wear a Speedo on Groundhog Day.

# I want all 4 seasons

## Florida misses out on all joys of real winters

By Shannon Metherell  
smetherell@valenciavoiced.com

In accordance with Groundhog Day's traditional analysis, the groundhog Punxsutawney Phil recently announced that there is going to be another six weeks of winter for this year. Living in Florida, what winter does this consist of? What happened to the snow, boots, scarves and winter sales?

It's the middle of February and it is finally starting to get cold! Floridians can finally get to experience what the other states are suffering from: cold fronts and 20 degree weather.

Living in Florida, the heat is a huge factor in everyday life. "Winter would

be nice; I would rather not sweat walking to my car," said Kurt Peters, who is currently studying Computer Science.

"It would be nice to see a change of pace in the weather," states business major Erick Merced, "it's always hot here; it's like summer all the time."

Florida is considered the Sunshine State, but wearing a tank top and shorts on Christmas Day is not exactly the persona that Christmas is supposed to give off. Winter time is supposed to be a time of year where people go ice skating, attend winter festivals and enjoy a nice cup of hot cocoa while waiting for a bus, not wearing flip flops and a bathing suit.

Mark Gerdy explained his favorite part about the winter. "I like the crisp



Jody Kurash/MCT

Santa Claus can't be expected to leave presents underneath a tree while dodging falling coconuts.

feeling in the air, and then now I can finally be able to wear my winter clothes that are in the back on my closet."

The cold weather does have some interesting advantages that might not be so obvious to most. "I wish it were colder here because I always sleep better when it's cold," said electronic engineering major Chris Panton. "I always sleep with

the fan on, no matter what the weather is outside." As nice as it might be to walk outside without shivering, the want for winter even in this southern state is high.

What does not make sense is that Florida seems to have all the other three seasons -- fall, summer and spring -- but cannot grasp the idea of having a winter. The weather becomes a bit cooler at

night during the spring and sprinkles some rain, and then around June the sun blazes down and it's humid and dry.

Once summer is closing up, fall rolls around and Halloween becomes a bit chilly. But what happened to winter? Winter this year has been very odd for Florida. There was a point where there was a stretch of cold weather for a couple of weeks, where boots and scarves were necessary, but then it would immediately turn back into being hot, then cold again. With weather changes like these, no wonder everyone keeps getting sick.

"Yeah, I wish winter was around longer this year," said business major Alisala Dwyer. "I don't really get a chance to wear my new boots any other time."

Whether winter is a favorite or not, the groundhog did announce that there would be six more weeks of winter this year, and so far, the prediction has been accurate. Needless to say, Florida has caught up with the winter memo.

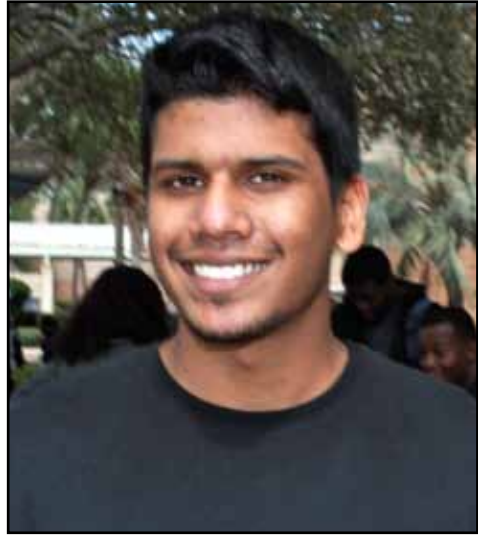
# Do you prefer a warm or cold winter season?

Photos and Interviews by James Tutton



"I prefer a cold winter, because it is a good way to escape this heat we see here every day."

— Zack Mustafa



"I do prefer cold weather, because of global warming it just keeps getting hotter and hotter here."

— Fawaz Abass



"A love a warm winter, I don't typically like to be cold, and I don't like the cold weather at all."

— Ceci Noel



"I prefer a cold winter; I just hate it when it's hot and humid outside for winter."

— Nalisha Bienaime



"A cold winter is better, and I can't go out and ride my horses when it's too hot outside."

— Michelle Romanello



"I like a cold winter, because I just like that environment, and it's much easier to deal with than hot."

— Shinell Stewart



"I prefer a cold winter. Not a wet Florida cold, but a nice dry cold like they get in the midwest."

— Aaron Unger



"I prefer a cold winter. It's just much more pleasant then this humid winter we have now."

— Mike Morancy



"Cold over hot, definitely. I grew up in Utah and I don't like this so called winter here in Florida."

— Christian Gonzales



"I like the warmer winter, because even though it's still cold you don't need a big jacket."

— Rakel Simmons

# This idiotic week:

## Houston funeral, ESPN slur, MegaCon

By Jeff Shedden  
jshedden@valenciavoice.com

### Whitney Houston:

Like any other popular singer or actor who dies before accomplishing nonagenarian status, the entire nation shuts down to fixate on the death of Whitney Houston. We did it for Michael Jackson, we did it for Heath Ledger, we even did it for that deep-fried mess, Anna-Nicole Smith.

Whitney's been a non-entity for well over a decade, but all of a sudden she bites it in the bathtub, and suddenly we want to rip Dolly Parton's head off for having the audacity to call a song she wrote 'hers.'

The profiteers and ghouls certainly

stepped in. Reportedly, the room the poor woman died in is booked solid for the foreseeable future. Everything had to be stripped from the room in order to stave off souvenir hounds, but I'm sure somebody's already selling off vials of her bathwater.

Warner Bros. has yanked "The Bodyguard" from Netflix's streaming service because they plan on making a killing from DVD sales, and Sony Music got caught inflating the cost of Houston's albums on iTunes.

Yes, she had an amazing voice in her younger days, and yes, I even own a copy of "Whitney" myself. But the sad truth is that she traded diva for dope and that was the end of it. This infamy is why anyone



Lionel Hahn, ABACA PRESS / MCT

Whitney Houston died last week. The world got so emotional. Ain't it shocking what drugs can do?

even cares that she died so suddenly.

At this rate, when Lindsay Lohan finally goes toes-up, we'll have her lying in state.

### ESPN Slur:

I'm not a Knicks fan, and I wasn't even awake at 2:30 a.m. on Saturday, so I didn't catch the faux pas in which Anthony Federico posted a headline on ESPN's website containing the phrase in regards to Jeremy Lin.

It was a poor choice of words because Jeremy Lin is, of course, of Chinese descent.

The question is context.

Did Federico use the phrase in a poor attempt at racial humor, or was he merely parroting an earlier statement made by Max Bretos.

Bretos's use of the phrase refers to a weakness and was properly, if unfortunately, used and upon scrutiny was obviously not intended to be used as a racial epithet.

Federico either knew what he was doing and was trying to be clever, or meant it innocently. Either way, firing him was probably a bit of overkill.

More appropriately, Federico should have gotten Breton's 30 day suspension, and Breton should have been asked to never use the slur while covering a Knicks game. The Houston Rockets are fair game this year, however.

### Megacon:

The worst sort of geek descended on Orlando this weekend: the fanboys and fangirls. Born out of the much smaller Star Trek conventions of yore, Megacon is just a huge gathering of the worst parts of nerd culture fandom.

There's plenty of angry defenders of these cons who argue in favor of the conventioners, swearing up and down that they lead normal lives and just like to make costumes and show them off from time to time.

Of course, then you discover their DeviantArt account is filled with thousands of drawings of them as an over-sized cartoon baby wolf in a huge, sopping diaper.

A guy in Spock ears is one thing, and even a guy in a convincing Darth Vader

outfit can be forgiven.

A 300 pound near-shut-in 30 year-old with a neck-beard dressed up like Naruto and arguing loudly with some asexual Autist about Inuyasha is another thing altogether.

I've attended fan conventions before, and have even attended E3 in Los Angeles, so the odor of masses of unwashed mouth breathers is nothing new to me.

But even I cannot fathom Megacon's mingling of new and improved stinks wafting from crowds of Furies in suits soaked with various body fluids and obese virgins in one piece, jumpsuit-style super hero costumes in which flatulence can only escape from neck and arm holes.

Everything is mingled with the smell of Axe body spray, which is considered by the delusional to be an acceptable alternative to daily baths, and wet garbage.

The icing on this fecal cheesecake? They manage to somehow raise enough money to get celebrities to voluntarily attend.



Jim McIsaac, Newsday / MCT

"Linsanity" is a contagious disease that causes sports writers to regurgitate racial slurs uncontrollably.



James Tutton / Valencia Voice

One staff, two elf ears and a whole lot of crazy.

# Was it fair of ESPN to fire editor for slur?

## No, it was an honest mistake

By James Tutton  
jtutton@valenciavoice.com

With all the benefits of modern technology, there are also risks new to the digital age of journalism. The recent fascination with New York Knicks point guard Jeremy Lin represents both the good and the bad involved with the fast paced world of instant news. Sports in particular is always about getting the story out first to attract the most readers.

Lin has been the talk of the sports nation with his underdog story of just barely making it into the NBA to suddenly becoming a beloved starter and putting up numbers like an All-star. The issue of his race has also been topical lately, due to the low number of Chinese-American basketball players to find such unprecedented attention.

With all the media hype and public scrutiny, many sports writers and others in news feel a need to get the best word in. After a poor performance by Lin last Friday, ESPN editor Anthony Federico gave a potentially offensive headline for the story covering the game.

This was posted online around 2:30 a.m. Saturday and was removed from the web site 35 minutes later, after negative comments and other backlash started to come in.

The 28-year-old editor, Federico, quickly gave a public apology, remarking that it was simply an honest

mistake, but was still promptly fired. ESPN anchor Max Bretos said the same phrase when talking about Lin earlier in the week and was suspended from the network for 30 days.

The old saying that the ESPN editor used can have several meanings and writers need to be mindful of terms and sayings that can be considered offensive. If an African-American basketball player had a horrible game followed by a public meltdown you wouldn't want to use the phrase, "he's out of his cotton-picking mind." Though this is a old saying in America, to say this about a black person can be incredibly offensive because of the racial injustice of slavery.

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech and freedom of the press, is a great power we all have in America. But we have to use this freedom to not offend others or we can expect some sort of consequences. It may just be harsh criticism directed towards you, but you could even lose your job if you say something your boss doesn't like.

Be it an honest mistake or button pushing, firing someone for a misused turn of phrase is just ESPN trying to say face and avoiding angering any more fans. It's hard to defend someone's ignorance, but I guess ESPN is not a network of second chances, so if enough people complain, it's one strike and you're out.



Jeremy Lin had nine turnovers during Hornets game on Feb. 17.



**Anthony Federico** @AntFeds  
The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away.  
Blessed be the name the Lord!

Tweet from Anthony Federico, ESPN editor the day he got fired.

## Yes, he is responsible for usage

By Fred Lambert  
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The fate of ESPN editor Anthony Federico after writing an unwisely worded headline may not be completely fair, but it should have been expected.

The headline summed up Knicks point guard and Asian-American Jeremy Lin's newly discovered weakness in a game loss to the Hornets. Jeremy Lin's nine turnovers cost Knicks in streak-stopping loss to Hornets resulted in the headline. The headline was up for only 35 minutes on a mobile news app website in the early morning hours of Saturday before it was pulled. It had already gone viral by that time, though.

In an earlier ESPN television broadcast on Wednesday, anchor Max Bretos casually used the headline used by Federico when speculating on Lin's game weaknesses. Federico has been fired and Bretos was suspended for 30 days.

Both have claimed that they did not intend the term the way it was taken, since the term that was used can also be used as an offensive slur for people of Chinese ethnicity. Some know this and some don't.

As well, the term has an export that goes back to medieval times, when flaws, in the steel armor of knights could be exploited to deliver a bladed killing blow. Again, not everyone is aware of the phrase's origin – but just enough people know about both angles of what was said to understand an implied pun.

Though this was a mistake, the stupidity is something to be accounted for. As a headline writer and editor, Federico in particular should have known better.

While some would argue that Breton deserved as much as Federico, the plain fact of the matter is that Breton used the term in a stream of dialogue without much forethought, whereas headline writing is a tedious and well-planned-out task. Headlines also rely on word-play and the use of clever puns. After any headline is written, it should be scrutinized for clarity, correct spelling and possible misinterpretations.

So when the phrase was used, considering things like Lin being one of the only Asian-American NBA players should have been an issue in any editor's mind. Especially in a country where everything someone says on the Internet can be recorded and shared to the world.

The other thing to consider is tone. Without an appropriate emoticon, even most phone texts can be misinterpreted. When Breton used the phrase, he did it without any specific emphasis in his tone to make it stand out, so the incident flew by without any notice until Federico's headline blunder.

So even though the ESPN editor did not intend the offense, people read it that way and there was no indication that he didn't mean to make an immature pun for the sake of slick writing. That's a harsh but logical lesson when writing news, especially in a nation where public figures are skewered on a regular basis for words taken out-of-context.

Jim McIsaac, Newsday / MCT

# Tweets of the Week



**Mike DiCenzo** @mikedicenzo

I think the worst thing to see from your airplane window as you're taking off is two crew guys yelling at each other.



**Neal Brennan** @nealbrennan

Wanna help Asians? Don't complain about ESPN's "Chink in the armor" Lin story. Complain about Apple's Chinese sweatshops.



**jimmy fallon** @jimmyfallon

LeBron said it'd be fun to play for the Cavs again. Cavs fans were like, "You're a jerk, you're a traitor & when can you start?"  
#FallonMono



**Steve Martin** @SteveMartinToGo

Found small Chinese person inside my iPhone. Apple needs to address working conditions.



**Chris Mintz-Plasse** @MintzPlasse  
I stole him [instagram.com/p/HLOVIOOLGY/](http://instagram.com/p/HLOVIOOLGY/)  
[Hide photo](#)



Instagram



**braden graeber** @hipstermermaid

My dog has been inside, eating pizza and listening to Adele all day. Should I be worried?

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# Spies face-off to find love

**‘This Means War’ combines action, romance, comedy**



By Felicia Roopchand  
froopchand@valenciavoice.com

“This Means War”, directed by McG, was a very visually pleasing movie—and I’m not talking about the cinematography.

The film’s stars are British hunk Tom Hardy, who plays Tuck, the beautiful blue-eyed Chris Pine, who plays Frank (nick-named FDR) and the ever-so adorable Reese Witherspoon, who plays Lauren. The stunning cast is what reeled me into seeing this action/comedy/romance.

“It started out corny but it got better as it went on,” said audience member Frank Befera.

The plot was quite simple: two men fighting over the same girl. The lovable twist: the men are best friends and also some of the CIA’s top spies. This leads to a cliched yet entertaining arms race to see which man will out-romance the other when it comes to winning over the leading lady.

The film featured high action scenes like a hostage scenario, a car chase and fighting men in suits to fluffy dates complete with cheesy lines that made the audience giddy (not to mention a few steamy sex scenes, also making the audience blush).

The men use their spy skills to sabotage each other’s dates, which got quite a few laughs out of the audience.

In the end, you find yourself falling in love right alongside with Lauren, making it difficult for the audience to choose between the sweet and thoughtful Tuck or the sassy goofball that is FDR.

Witherspoon is not alone in this battle of choosing the best man; her raunchy best friend Trish (played by the even raunchier Chelsea Handler) guides her with advice that may not be the best, but certainly is the most amusing.

In some cases, some might prefer the bromance over the romance due to the playful on-screen chemistry between Hardy and Pine.

“I was rooting for Captain Kirk,” said



Courtesy of 20th Century Fox

FDR (Chris Pine) competes against Tuck (Tom Hardy) for Lauren’s (Reese Witherspoon) affection in ‘This Means War’, a romantic comedy with a side of action and CIA spies sure to draw attention.

Befera in reference to Pine’s role in the recent rendition of the Star Trek franchise.

As for myself, it was Hardy’s charming character that won me over. However, everyone wins at the cheesy ending of this

action flick for chicks.

Although it was nothing Oscar-worthy or life-changing, it was light-hearted and entertaining enough to leave you with a smile.

## Opening Feb. 24 ‘Act of Valor’



Courtesy of Relativity Media

**Director:** Mike McCoy & Scott Waugh  
**Starring:** Roselyn Sanchez, Alex Veador, Nestor Serrano  
**Rated:** R  
**Running Time:** 1 hour 41 minutes  
**Genre:** Action / Adventure, Drama

## ‘Wanderlust’



Courtesy of Universal Pictures

**Director:** David Wain  
**Starring:** Paul Rudd, Jennifer Aniston  
**Rated:** R  
**Running Time:** 1 hour 40 minutes  
**Genre:** Comedy

## Box Office



Courtesy of Universal Pictures/MCT

### ‘Safe House’

**Rated:** R

**Starring:** Denzel Washington, Ryan Reynolds

**This Weekend:** \$23.8 M

**Total Gross:** \$78.1 M



Courtesy of Kerry Hayes SMPSP/MCT

### ‘The Vow’

**Rated:** PG-13

**Starring:** Rachel McAdams, Channing Tatum

**This Weekend:** \$23.1 M

**Total Gross:** \$85 M



Courtesy of Columbia Pictures

### ‘Ghost Rider 2’

**Rated:** PG-13

**Starring:** Nicolas Cage, Idris Elba, Ciaran Hinds

**This Weekend:** \$22.1 M

**Total Gross:** \$22.1 M

# Comic book flame dies out

'Ghost Rider' burns badly



By Edward Mueller  
emueller@valenciavoiced.com

The dark comic book biker superhero returns in Mark Neveldine's film "Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance." Nicolas Cage stars as the cursed motorcyclist Johnny Blaze whose soul is bound to the spirit of vengeance Zarathos.

The movie is based on the Marvel Comics supernatural antihero who made a deal with an arch-demon named Mephisto in order to save his stepfather from cancer. The Hollywood mock-up replaces Blaze's stepfather with his actual father Barton Blaze.

This sequel to the 2007 film focuses Ghost Rider's attention on a young boy named Danny (Fergus Riordan). Ciaran Hinds portrays a demon named Roarke who sends his henchmen to take Danny from his mother, Nadya.

A temple in Eastern Europe acts as a safe house for the boy and his mother until it is attacked by mercenaries hired by Roarke. Leading the assault is a man with connections to Nadya named Ray Carrigan (Johnny Whitworth).

Moreau is a French biker who was raised by monks in a temple pleasantly referred to throughout the movie as the "Sanctuary." Idris Elba plays the part of Moreau, convincing Ghost Rider to protect and escort Danny to the Sanctuary where the boy would be safe and the curse that binds Blaze and Zarathos could be lifted.

Blaze is rewarded for his help after bringing a boy into the hands of a questionable, scripture-tattooed monk named Methodius (Christopher Lambert). The deceptive ways



Courtesy of Columbia Pictures

Nicolas Cage plays Johnny Blaze a.k.a. Ghost Rider.

of Methodius bring the monk to odds with Blaze and Moreau.

Roarke saves Carrigan to turn him into a bleach head with the powers of darkness and decay. Carrigan gets his hands on the boy and flees to his master after sucking the life out of the monks.

Moreau, Nadya, and Blaze go to the boy's rescue in the final climatic bang with Carrigan and Roarke. Throughout the chase and rescue scenes Ghost Rider reenacts parts of popular action movies such as "Mortal Kombat" and "Conan the Barbarian."

Comic book fans are likely to be disappointed that the sequel strayed further from the comic lines than the original as they ridicule the amount of flame rising from Ghost Rider's head.

"It was a terrible movie," said spectator Sheleena Jones. "The first movie was better. It had a better storyline and better fights. This one was just bad."

Bad acting on the part of Cage or poor direction from Neveldine is leaving audiences wondering if this film is a reflection on hard times and bad economies. "Why did I buy a ticket to this?" Jorge Ruiz asked, wearing a t-shirt which bore the semblance of Ghost Rider.

A lasting, undesirable impression of the first "Ghost Rider" movie may keep the sequel from reaching the top spot while "Safe House" and "The Vow" stay strong this weekend. "'Safe House' and 'Ghost Rider' are keeping us busy, but 'Ghost Rider' looks whack to me," said Sabrina Ballester, staff member at Touchstar Cinemas in the Southchase Plaza.

# Creative lovers of fandom unite

MegaCon 2012 brings franchise fans for cosplaying convention

By Michelle Saddic  
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There is a place where people come together to celebrate their passions for comics, anime, video games, costume design, and more. MegaCon, the largest comic, sci-fi, video game and anime convention in Florida was held this last weekend, Feb. 17-19, at the Orange County Convention Center. This convention hosts many discussion panels and tons of shops, artists, collectors, and contests.

MegaCon was sponsored by Funimation Entertainment, Students of the Unusual, CGCC Comics, and many more. The show room was much larger than in past years, and this time they decided to have three gigantic rooms filled entirely with booths. Even though there was more room to walk, the volume of people at the con was also larger than last year.

It is hard to not notice when MegaCon is in town because of the dozens of people dressed up in costumes ranging from Wonder Woman to characters from Scooby Doo wandering around outside the convention center. Since the convention does not have a specific theme, people can expect their favorite super heroes or villains to show up along with characters from TV shows and cartoons.

Many people come from all over the country to attend MegaCon. Some people come for the celebrities, and others come with friends or even come just to make new friends. MegaCon can also allow for people to be themselves, dress up, and act crazy for a weekend.



James Tutton / Valencia Voice

'Cosplayers' dress-up for a chance to win a cash prize of several thousand dollars at MegaCon.

"MegaCon is so much fun. I'm always glad to see all of my convention friends and I was finally able to show off my Beastboy costume!" said Unique Michael, who was dressed as Beastboy from the TV show "Teen Titans."

At MegaCon there are countless panels and signings available to the public, but for stars like comic book legend Stan Lee, or "Harry Potter's" Tom Felton, advanced seating or payment for photographs and signing were necessary.

The bulk of the panels and celebrity appearances are held on Saturday, which is typically regarded as the best

day to attend. The costume contest is also held on Saturday.

As soon as the sun goes down and the costume contest is over, the rave dance party begins. All the con-goers come out to dance, twirling glow sticks and dancing to techno music.

By the time Sunday rolls along, people are exhausted. Sunday makes the best day to relax, do some shopping and get some discounted merchandise.

"I had a great time, I am definitely coming again next year," said first-timer, David Crooke, dressed as Kid Flash, "everyone is so fun and I love the attention."

# 'Blue' men get tweaked

— Continued from page 1

The show, while keeping many of the signature pieces that have made "Blue Man Group" who they are, has been entwined with topical bits that are a sensory dialogue on the current obsession with electronic gadgets. "We are always updating and tweaking the shows," said Staton, "and these devices are changing our lives."

The show will feature an over-sized tablet device called Gi-Pad, or Gigantic iPad. The device stands more than 7-feet-tall and is intended to allow the user to share the tablet experience with his closest 100 friends. The Blue Men use wit and humor to open a conversation with the audience about living within the two-dimensional world of tablets and smart phones and asks the question, "Is it too much?"

In one scenario, the Blue Men engage each other in a texting conversation. Huge screens above their heads show the audience what is being typed across the phones as they argue whether this conversation would be better held in the three-dimensional world of reality. Insulted, the Blue Man texts another friend telling him of the great insult lampooned upon him of being pulled from the comfort of his smart phone screen to engage in a face-to-face conversation.

This foray into the new technological reality we live in is just part of the "new feel" to a show that has been a staple in the Universal Orlando audience for four-and-a-half years. The entire theatre has been re-done. The stage was pulled out and replaced with completely new materials to give it a fresh look and feel, and the theatre was fixed with new decorations and props that allow the audience to be more interactive and involved then ever before.



Courtesy of Universal Studios Orlando

Gi-iPad aka a Gigantic iPad is intended to allow the user to share the tablet experience with friends.

"Our team of artists at Blue Man Productions has created fun, even astounding new visual aspects of the show," explained Chris Wink, another one of the original Blue Men and co-creators. "And our music team has given us a great new sound; we are really excited to incorporate these elements into the show."

While a new show experience was developed and new acts added, the Blue Men want to remind their faithful fans that the signature moments that they have come to be known for are still in the show, although in most cases they have also been updated.

"Many of our audience's favorite pieces will continue to be a part of the production," said Stanton. "The things that are more timeless and tribal in nature, such as paint, drums and light [are there], but we have developed some brand new ele-

ments of the show that provide a larger-than-life, rousing, interactive experience that I hope will really speak to all cultures and give some of our most devoted fans a new reason to check us out again."

For all the lights, sound and sensory overload, the stars of the show are still the blue painted, poker-faced comedians whose job it is to keep the audience's attention for nearly 90 minutes. "The heart of the show is, and always has been, the Blue Man and his inquisitive, wide-eyed take on the world," said Wink.

Throughout its run at Universal Orlando the show has had several different renovations to the act and the stage, but Stanton advises that there is one thing that has not and will not ever change: "The first few rows will still need to wear ponchos."

# Mardi Gras kicks off

## Kelly Clarkson performs at Universal Studios

By Brittany Rose  
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The Annual Mardi Gras festival at Universal Orlando kicked off this past weekend with a cleaner-than-the-real-version parade and a performance by Kelly Clarkson.

All of the floats for the parade were made by Blaine Kern at Blaine Kern Studios, who creates all of the floats at the original Mardi Gras festival in New Orleans, La. The floats at the Orlando Mardi Gras are decorated with glitter as opposed to the New Orleans floats, which are designed with lights.

"It was amazing," said Johnny French, an observer at the parade. "I've been the last few years, and this has been the best so far."

The rest of the crowd seemed to share in his sentiments about the parade, screaming and smiling as they jumped to catch the beads that were thrown from the various floats that passed by, which were separated from the masses by stilt walkers in several types of colorful costumes.

Visual affects were used in multiple zones throughout the park, casting green, purple and gold (the staple colors of Mardi Gras) images on the sides of the buildings and rides. Beads could be bought at several stands or caught from stilt walkers along the streets of the park as well.

The Mardi Gras event closed out with the Kelly Clarkson at the big stage in the middle of the park. Visitors packed themselves into a crowd leading almost all the way out to the gates in order to listen into the original "American Idol" singer's voice.

Clarkson joked and remained engaged with the cheering crowd from beginning

to end, even covering a few songs, like Demi Lovato's "Skyscraper" and Carrie Underwood's "I Know You Won't," which had been requested by fans.

"This is the best crowd," said Clarkson after getting the audience involved in singing along to her 2004 hit song "Breakaway." "I'm so glad that I came here."

For those who are bummed out about missing the concert this week, fear not! It was just the first of several. The Mardi Gras festival is going on until April 14 with performers such as Diana Ross, Goo Goo Dolls, Hot Chelle Rae and B.o.B. Tickets are still available for purchase at <http://www.universalorlando.com/Events/Mardi-Gras/Overview.aspx>



Kelly Clarkson is the first of many artist to perform at Universal Studios Orlando Mardi Gras.

Courtesy of Universal Studios Orlando

# Strong finish for 5th Brazilian Film Festival

## American premiere of award winning movie 'Matraga' highlights annual tradition

By Felicia Roopchand  
froopchand@valenciavoices.com

The fifth Valencia Brazilian Film Festival ended its five-night run on Feb. 17 with the U.S. premiere of the movie "Matraga." The event started on Feb. 9, showcasing several Brazilian films throughout the month.

"I do love foreign films," said Festival attendee Amy Love, "and the atmosphere is great."

Before the screening of the film, there were a variety of Brazilian refreshments offered in the atrium of Building 3 on the West Campus, catered by Silva's Market, located at 2500 S.

Kirkman Road. Guests of the festival also received a 10 percent discount for the restaurant.

A fundraising drawing for one of the film festival's t-shirts was held, and funds will be designated to enable students to study in Brazil in the future.

The screening of film "Matraga" was the first ever in the United States. The film was screened at the 2011 Rio International Film Festival where it won Best Fiction Film, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor and the Special Jury Prize.

"[Foreign films] let you see into their lives and their culture," said audience member Kathy Fedell. "It's so different from ours but we're all the

same in the end."

According to the film's synopsis: "The audience follows the heartless landowner Augusto Matraga who is toppled from his position of power in the raw world of Brazil's 19th outback and, having been beaten and left for dead by his enemies, is taken in by two religious farmers." The film is described as "a beautifully rendered cinematic tale of survival, loss, redemption, and faith."

The film festival was presented courtesy of Professor of Portuguese Richard Sansone and Valencia College in partnership with the Central Florida Brazilian American Chamber of Commerce.



Richard Sansone, the original organizer of this event poses for photos.

Courtesy of Stephanie McMillen

# App of the Week: Temple Run

By Neda Hamdan  
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Most apps are usually fun, addicting, and time consuming. Temple Run is not only that, but also tests your ability to react quickly. Developed by Imangi Studios, this app is a game based around the concept that a character named Guy Dangerous (as well as other explorers) stole an idol. As a result, a group of demonic monkeys makes chase, which begins the Temple Run.

While you play, you will be faced with multiple obstacles, but the controls are pretty basic. Sliding your finger to the right makes a right turn, sliding left makes a left turn, down lets you slide, and sliding up jumps. To collect coins while you run, tilt the phone from side to side. This helps you move toward each side.

There is no finish line in the game; the object is to run as far as possible, collecting hundreds of coins each time, and with those coins you can get powerups.

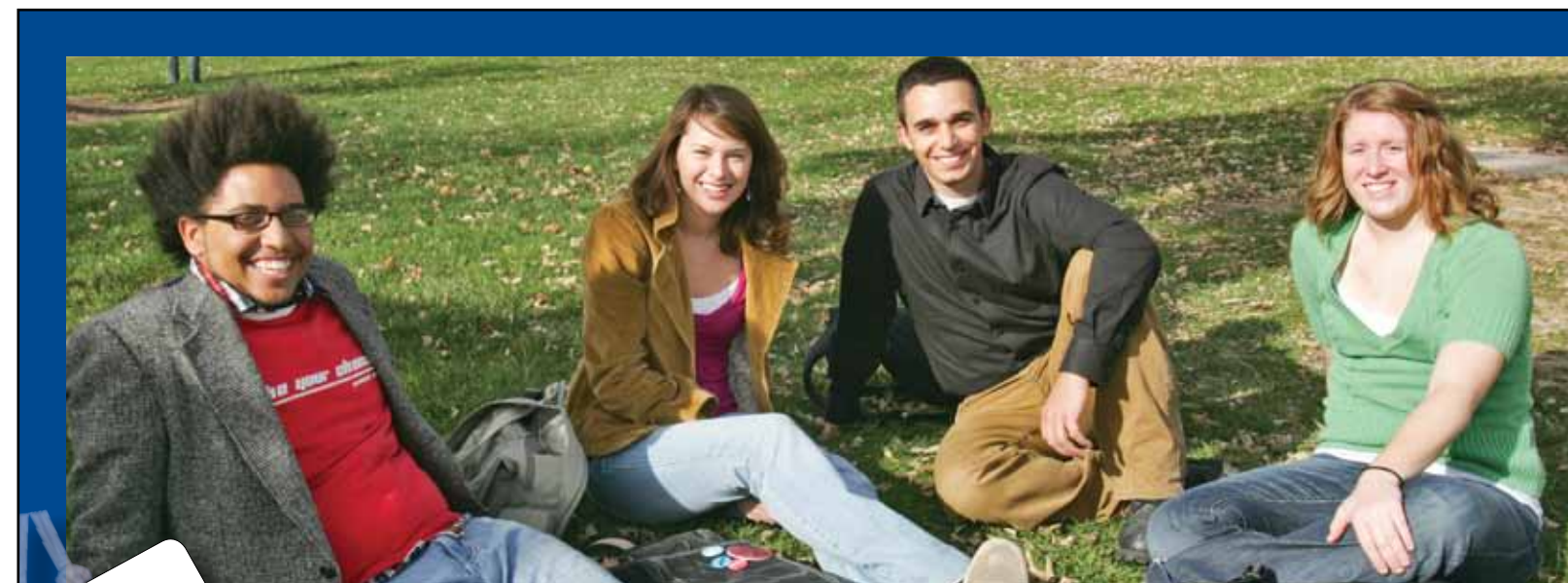


Courtesy of iTunes

There are four powerups and unlocking each one will get you a new ability, such as invisibility, which allows you to deflect any obstacles for 30 seconds, and boost, which increases your speed for 1000 meters.

The graphics are high quality, and the environment looks like it was taken from an Indiana Jones movie. Temple Run is an app that keeps you at the edge of your seat, and promises to entertain, currently being the top grossing app on the iOS platform. The icing on the cake is it is now free to play and you can buy the coins to excel throughout the games.

Currently available only for iOS systems, such as the iPhone and iPad, Temple Run will be available for the Android within the next month.



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# Passionate performance of classic story

Last week for 'A Raisin in the Sun' with performances expected to sell out early

By James Tutten  
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An emotionally charged performance from a noticeably tight-knit group of actors gave a passionate performance of the American classic, "A Raisin in the Sun." Word of the talented ensemble is spreading fast, and the limited seats at the Black Box Theater are selling out even faster.

The play's director John DiDonna is very pleased with the high praise and the large numbers in attendance, and the play's opening week sell out. "I feel very good about the entire production, and I feel great about the audience response," said DiDonna.

The relatively small Black Box Theater is an ideal setting for this intimate play, which

takes place in only one location. It features a cross-sectional view of an extended African-American family living in a cramped and rundown apartment in the 1950s.

As the audience members enter, classic jazz and swing music from the era floats into their ears, and they find themselves becoming acquainted with everything located within the single room encompassing one family's epicenter.

As the play begins the room comes to life with the family slowly waking up to start their day, and the smell of cooked eggs and running water set the sounds and smells of the typical morning.

Time is spent in the beginning detailing and introducing the characters with the hopes, goals and motivations they

each hold in their own unique ways.

"The play kept me engaged and at the edge of my seat emotionally. You want them to have a chance to advance in life," said audience member Felichia Chivaughn. "Walter is going through so much, and you feel sorry for him and understand his pain."

The most climactic moments of this production revolve around the conflicted protagonist Walter Lee Younger, played by Valencia and University of Florida alumni Parris Baker. Many audience members were visibly moved during his key scenes of the play. Walter fights to define himself as a man and provide a better life for his family.

"It's very easy to label somebody a bad guy and not have sympathy towards them," said Baker. "So to hear that people feel compassion towards Walter, and are able to give him the benefit of the doubt makes me very happy."

Also in attendance on opening night were Baker's father and mother, both of whom were emotionally moved by the commanding performance of their young son Parris. "It's a powerful story," said Karl Baker. "You see the dreams shattered, and all you're left with is your pride at the end of the day."

Dealing with several complicated issues compounds the tension in the overcrowded household. Walter's wife Ruth Younger, played by Cherise James, soon finds that she is pregnant with another child. She contemplates getting an abortion because she is already dealing with tensions over money, her husband's radical behavior, and her youngest son Travis already having to sleep on the living room sofa.

"It's such a powerful subject to talk



James Tutten / Valencia Voice

Tensions and emotions run high in the cramped Younger household during this production.

about," said James. "There are still families today that have to get rid of their children simply because they can't afford to take care of them."

The era in which this play is set also addresses several issues of sexism and double standards toward woman. Topics of religious practicality, equality standards and more are all conveyed by Beneatha Younger, played by Valencia theater student Marshay Weaver. She does a phenomenal job with the complex subject matter and is a natural in this production, marking her first acting performance on stage.

"In that time --back in the 1950s -- it was unheard-of for someone like Beneatha to come in and say you can do what ever you want to do," said Weaver.

Though all the cast members have their shining moments over the duration of the play, the role of Lena Younger, played by seasoned actress Avis-Marie Barnes, is spell-binding. She is the mother and primary nurturer that struggles to hold this

chaotic family together.

"There is nothing that really matters in anyone's life if you don't really love somebody," said Barnes. She is driven right to the edge near the end of the play, and has to fight to contain her emotional outpouring.

This story, written by Lorraine Hansberry, is considered a cannon of classic American drama. The intense emotions and hard issues faced are just as powerful today as they were more than 50 years ago.

Most of the performances are selling out for this unique and limited production. The final run will be Feb. 22 through Feb. 25 at the Black Box Theater on Valencia's East campus located at 701 North Econlockhatchee Trail in Orlando.

It's recommended that tickets be purchased online in advance to ensure seating for this highly anticipated production at the theaters official ticket web site: <https://www.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?t=tix&e=f5fab8a826ec8f2913e7bfc4522c9f87>



James Tutten / Valencia Voice

Avis-Marie Barnes who plays Mama comforts Christopher Redman Jr. who plays Travis Younger.

Feb. 23  
SGA Legislative Awareness  
Winter Park Campus  
Portico  
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Feb. 23  
Valencia Volunteers ASPCA Skillshop  
West Campus  
6-202  
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Feb. 24  
Phi Theta Kappa Casino Night  
East Campus  
Great Hall  
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Feb. 24  
Intramural's Volleyball Tournament  
Osceola Campus  
Front of Bldg. 1  
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Feb. 27  
Exploring Career Connections using the Myers-Briggs Type  
East Campus  
8-101  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Feb. 28  
Spring Break, Under a Budget  
Osceola Campus  
Portable k  
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Feb. 29  
Tools To Quit Smoking  
East Campus  
8 -101  
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Community

2/23  
Amitabh Pal  
UCF Student Union  
University of Central Florida  
3:00 p.m.



Courtesy ofucfglobalperspectives.org

2/26  
Bach Festival Society presents Solo Works of J.S. Bach  
Tiedtke Concert Hall, Rollins College  
4:00 p.m.



Courtesy of bachfestivalfloridaorg

2/24  
Glee Pep Rally hosted by Becky Jackson!  
University of Central Florida  
Alumni Center



Courtesy of dsacf.org

On-going

2/23 - 3/13  
Heart and Soul Exhibition  
Grand Bohemian  
Gallery Grand Bohemian Hotel

2/23 - 3/29  
Linking Information for Employment  
Adult Literacy League  
Thursdays 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

2/25 - 2/26  
Flax Market Weekends  
Sam Flax Art & Design Store  
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.



Courtesy of samflaxsouth.com



Courtesy of blankspaceorlando.com

2/23-3/11  
On and Off the Wall: The Theresa Disney Spring Collection  
Jeanine Taylor Folk Art  
Sundays noon-5 p.m.  
Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.



Courtesy of jtfolkart.com

2/26 - 4/29  
Art Market  
Blank Space  
Sundays 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Concerts

2/23  
Andy Grammer  
The Beacham  
7:00 p.m.



Courtesy of thesocial.org



Courtesy of thesocial.org

2/24  
Blind Pilot  
The Social  
9:00 p.m.

2/26  
The Grand Closing Party of AllStar Weekend 2012  
Hosted by Rick Ross  
The Beacham  
10:00 p.m.



Courtesy of thebeacham.com



Courtesy of amwaycenter.com

2/28  
Michael Jackson 'The Immortal World'  
by Cirque du Soleil  
Amway Center  
8:00 p.m.

# UCF sweeps LIU in 3 game opening series

## Knights explode for 31 runs during weekend, only allow 2 runs in doubleheader

By Mary Stevens  
mstevens@valenciavoice.com

The UCF Knights kicked off their baseball season by claiming victory over the LIU Brooklyn Blackbirds in a three game series.

The Knights won both games of Saturday's doubleheader at 9-1. Preseason Conference Player of the Year, D.J. Hicks led the offensive strike in both games. Hicks hit two home runs and ended the series with .538 and a seven RBIs.

"It's all about the first one. As soon as you can get the first one out the way you can slow down," said Hicks after the game.

During the first game, Hicks' two-run double created a gap early in the game, which the Blackbirds couldn't overcome.

In the last game, he once again created similar gap when he hit two home runs.

Even though the Knights won the Friday opener, they struggled to win.

"Yesterday we did not really play well fundamentally," said head coach Terry Rooney. "We need to play fundamentally sound. We have a very talented team but we have to play the game. When we don't play the game you can see what happened last night; it was back and forth tied in the seventh inning."

That was not the case during the doubleheader on Saturday. The Knights won both games with a big lead.

"As far as getting the kids the amount of innings what we are looking for when you go into the weekend you want your starters to get five innings you hope with the sixth inning as a bonus," said Rooney. "Chris Matulis did that. Ben (Lively) got five and Chris got six."

Pitcher Chris Matulis won his first game as a Knight. During the last game, Matulis allowed four hits, one run, and struck out five.

"It felt pretty good pretty anxious in the beginning. After that first hit and that first run I had to calm down then just relax," said Matulis following the game. "I haven't been pitching normal in almost three years. It feels good to be healthy again."

The St. Louis Cardinals drafted Matulis in the 29th round of the 2011 MLB Draft.

Rookies such as James Vasquez, Eric Skoglund and Garrett Nuss were a big part of all three games.

"Eric Skoglund and Garrett Nuss are in a lot of ways the future of our pitching staff," said Rooney. Freshman pitchers Nuss and Skoglund made their UCF de-



Bryan Levine / ValenciaVoice

D.J. Hicks during his first at bat of the season. Hicks went on to hit two homeruns on Saturday.

butts and pitched two innings and struck out three batters.

"There were a lot of great individual performances. As a group and as a team we played better today than we did yesterday," said Rooney.

No. 21 Knights will travel to Gainesville Wednesday to play No. 1 Gators at 7 p.m.

"We are excited to go up on Wednesday and play the No. 1 ranked team in the country," said Rooney. "It should be a great ball game."



Bryan Levine / ValenciaVoice

Center fielder Ronnie Richardson waits for a pitch during opening Knight. 2,038 fans, the sixth largest in school history, were in attendance.

# Orlando benefits from NBA All-Star game provides economic boost for city

By Lawrence Laguna  
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The NBA All-Star game in Orlando this year is the first in 20 years, and with it local retailers will feel a large benefit economically.

A popular consumer location is preparing for the All-Star week by changing its scene. The Florida Mall has grand plans on creating an atmosphere for many hot spots in its retail industry.

Many stores have directed their attention to

bringing in products that people will buy that are related to the NBA, like jerseys, player branded shoes, hats, and more.

"The mall is projecting to make about 30 percent more than what it did last year in the month of February," said Florida Mall spokesman Terrance Blackmon. "We have estimated we should be making a \$170,000 gain."

Some stores have completely transformed their image and made themselves blend in with the scene. One store changed everything to make itself a Michael Jordan branded store, selling every product within the Michael Jordan brand.

They would also have Dwyane Wade appear to represent his brand, and stay at the location for a limited time for fans to meet him.

Other brands like Nike and Adidas have plans to bring in extra inventory in order to set up extra locations around the mall in order to maximize profit.

Adidas will set up booths in certain areas inside the mall that will have every NBA team jersey, and headline their trademark shoes with All-Star players Dwight Howard and Derrick Rose.

Both players will be there to represent Adidas and the shoes they made through the brand, as well as to sign autographs and take pictures with fans.

"I'm totally excited to see the All-Star events flourish around Orlando and especially the mall, because it creates a good atmosphere for all the basketball junkies and the kids who look up to their favorite players," said Jamal Carter, a consistent Nike buyer.

Nike is planning on creating their own festivities at the major footwear stores to have their athletes advertise their shoes also. The corporation is planning to bring in two 18-wheelers and make them into a basketball court.

Aside from the basketball courts, they will also have shoes that will be available in limited release for the sneaker fanatic fans.

With All-Star fever coming to the Florida Mall, merchants and local fans alike will benefit from the expansion of NBA merchandise.



Gary W. Green, Orlando Sentinel / MCT

As the lone Magic to make the All-Star game, Dwight Howard will be Orlando's ambassador during this weekend.



Jim McIsaac, Newsday / MCT

Jeremy Lin became a household name over night, and will now play in the NBA Rising Stars game for All-Star weekend.

## Linsanity will strike Orlando

### NBA phenom expected to play in Rising Stars game

By Anthony Reiber  
Newsday

Even NBA commissioner David Stern can't stop the Lin-sanity.

Forty-eight hours after Stern told USA Today that Jeremy Lin would not be added to the roster for one of the NBA All-Star Weekend's showcase events, the league did just that.

Lin said Friday that he was surprised to learn he was added Thursday to the Feb. 24 Rising Stars Challenge, which features rookies and second-year players.

But this won't be Lin's first time at the All-Star Game. He went to last year's festivities in Los Angeles, in part to make an appearance for NBA China

and in part as a fan.

"I did a couple, like, appearances," said Lin, who was a little-used rookie with the Golden State Warriors at the time. "But I just wanted to check it out just because it was just something new to me. I had never been to an All-Star Game or All-Star Weekend. That was just an experience."

This year, Lin will be going to Orlando, Fla., as the NBA's hottest property after the league expanded the Rising Stars roster to add him. It makes sense, given that no player in recent memory has risen as quickly or unexpectedly as Lin has.

"I thought the rosters came out a while ago," Lin said after Knicks practice Friday. "But then people just started telling me I made it. I didn't even know. They must have done whatever . . . something to put an extra guy in there."

Lin will play in the Rising Stars game along with Knicks teammate Landry Fields after being chosen by general manager Shaquille O'Neal with his third pick, after former No. 1 overall draft picks Blake Griffin and Kyrie Irving.

"It's definitely exciting, but right now, I try not to think too far ahead," Lin said. "Just take it one day at a time. Obviously, it's an honor to be able to play with Landry in that game and I think [Iman Shumpert] should be in that game, as well, but that's the way it goes."

Lin also is expected to help Shumpert in the Feb. 25 Slam Dunk competition by passing his rookie teammate the ball in some yet-to-be determined routine. So he'll be busy, but Lin is happy to not have the weekend off.

"My season's only been seven games long, so I'm doing OK," he said. "I'm just going to play in one game and it's not really going to be taxing on my body. I'll probably stand around half-court and throw a couple alley-oop passes. That's more just a fun thing and an honor to be out there. Besides that, I'm not really doing appearances or anything. I'm just going to relax, rest and let my legs come back."

Of his experience so far with "Lin-sanity," Lin said: "Obviously, it's a little mentally and emotionally taxing in terms of just being pulled in a hundred different directions. But at the end of the day, that comes with the territory, and it's my job to focus on resting and making sure it doesn't affect my performance on the court. That's on me and not on anyone else."

— MCT Campus

# Bright future for freshman

## Kasey Wilson provides UCF with quality minutes off bench

By Juan Gutierrez  
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The University of Central Florida men's basketball team recruited three freshmen prior to the start of the 2011-12 season. Of the three freshman, none have contributed more to the Knights and impacted the team as much this season as Kasey Wilson.

Wilson, a 6-foot-7 forward from North Port, Fla., has shown progression throughout this season and had one of his best games in Saturday night's UCF win over East Carolina.

"Kasey Wilson continues to give us good minutes as a freshman off the bench," said UCF head coach Donnie Jones when asked about Wilson following UCF's win against East Carolina. "Every time we put him in he just accepts whatever we give him, and you know I would like to play him some more minutes, and that will come in the right opportunity. He's just continued to produce for us, which has been so helpful for our team."

In the home win against East Carolina, Wilson scored nine points and six rebounds in just 12 minutes of action. He shot a perfect 3-for-3 from the field, including one 3-pointer and knocked down two crucial free throws in the final minutes of the fourth quarter to help seal the win for the Knights.

"I'm getting more comfort-

able out there you know and coach is starting to trust me more so it's really helping me go out and be more confident," said Wilson. "When I first got here I was getting pushed around easier, you know, but putting about 15 pounds on has really helped me out."

Prior to attending UCF, Wilson averaged 21 points a game and 9 rebounds as a senior for North Port high school. Wilson was also selected to the All-State division 6A Florida Athletic Coaches Association and was ranked as the 53rd best power forward in the nation by ESPN's senior year of high school.

"What I love about Kasey is there are games where he won't

play at all; he'll play five minutes a game, 15 minutes or 20 minutes a game, but the thing with him is he stays confident," said UCF point guard AJ Romza. "The thing with Kasey is there's no, 'Oh I didn't play this game I'm not going to come to practice and work hard.' I think that's the most important thing, when you have that mindset that, 'I didn't play that much in this game; I'll come back and work even harder in practice,' and I think that's how Kasey is."

Wilson is averaging 2.4 points a game this year and 1.8 rebounds per game in average of 5.7 minutes of game time this season. UCF's next game is Wednesday Feb. 22 at Rice University.



Kasey Wilson (22) tries to get a rebound on a free throw, against East Carolina.

Bryan Levine / Valencia Voice



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# Astros head into Spring with confidence

## Despite a rocky 2011, Houston enters new season with positive outlook

By Bryan Levine  
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Plenty of new faces reported to the facilities at Ocala County Stadium, as the Houston Astros kicked off their 2012 Spring Training, Monday morning.

While most teams are only worried about learning the names a few new players, the Astros, on the other hand, have a new owner, new general manager, new coaches, and virtually a completely revamped roster.

"I've never been here before. I'm still feeling my way around," said team owner Jim Crane. "But everyone is settled in and ready to go to work."

Coming off a disappointing season in which they finished worst in the league with a record of 56-106, the Astros enter this Spring with a new outlook.

"Dawning of a new era is a good way to put it," said manager Brad Mills. "There's a lot of new faces here, not only in the front office, but players as well."

One of the biggest bright spots for the Astros, is

the return of their young catcher Jason Castro, who missed the entire 2011 season due to a torn ACL.

"I'm happy with the way things have progressed on the rehab side," said Castro. "I'm just focusing on getting back to the things I know I can do and staying healthy."

According to Mills, virtually every position on the 2012 opening day roster will have steep competition, but as far as catcher goes, it's Castro's job to lose.

"We all saw how this ball club played when [Castro] came up two years ago. He took charge of the pitching staff, and played pretty well behind the dish," said Mills. "It was just such a crushing blow last year when we weren't able to get a game out of him."

Despite being one of the worst teams in the National League Central for the last few seasons, there is nothing but high hopes for this 2012 club. General Manager Jeff Luhnow, who was hired during the off season, doesn't expect his new team to continue to slump this season.

"We're not going to be predicted to win the division this year, and we're not going to be expected to compete," said Luhnow, "but I don't believe it. I think we have the players and staff to come out of the gates strong. If we stay healthy, I really think we have the talent to be competitive this year."

Figuring out the condition of their pitching staff will be an important task for the Astros this Spring. They're coming off a season in which their pitchers ranked last in wins, and saves, second worst in walks, and third worst in team ERA.

To address these issues, the Astros have brought in some veteran arms in Livan Hernandez and Zack Duke. They're also highly anticipating the return of closer Brandon Lyon.

Lyon missed most of 2011 with tendinitis in his shoulder, and a partially torn rotator cuff.

"I feel like all of the rehab and off season work really paid off," said Lyon. "It's not up to me if I'm going to be closing this year, but I just want to go out there and help this ball club win games."

Although he is one of the few, Lyon is not the



Catcher Jason Castro will be an important aspect for the Astros this season, if they expect to be competitive in the NL Central.



Astros manager Brad Mills talks to his pitching staff on the first day of Spring Training. Pictured is J.A. Happ and Sergio Escalona.

only veteran returning to this pitching staff. Wandy Rodriguez, who is entering his eighth season with the Astros, will be called upon to be a leader in the starting rotation.

Rodriguez has been with the Astros his entire career, and posted his best season in 2009 with a 14-12 record, 3.02 ERA, and 193 strikeouts in 205.2 innings of work.

The Astros will continue to evaluate their pitching staff all week, as position players don't report to Kissimmee until Sunday.

# Lions beat MLS Philadelphia

## Orlando makes strong argument for big leagues with win

By Mike Gramajo  
mgramajo@valenciavoices.com

Thanks to a Maxwell Griffin's last minute strike, Orlando City avoided a loss, and earned a tie Saturday night, against MLS side Philadelphia Union to start off the pre-season.

Orlando City has made their mission to make it to the MLS in the near future, and Orlando City has a competitive history when playing up against MLS teams.

The last time Orlando played Philadelphia, was in their inaugural game, in which Orlando City earned a 1-0 win.

"It shows all these MLS teams that we mean business and that [Orlando City] knows how to play," said Griffin after the game.

With the Philadelphia friendly out of the way, Orlando will play two more MLS clubs before their USL Pro season begins.

Orlando will play Toronto FC and FC Dallas in the 2012 Walt Disney World Pro Soccer Classic.

The Lions played Toronto FC in the 2011 installment of the WDW Pro Soccer classic. Orlando got away with a 1-0 victory.

However, if Orlando City wanted to show MLS that they can compete, they must overcome a tough FC Dallas.

Orlando and FC Dallas have met twice before, both games ended with a win for Dallas.

They met most recently in the 2011 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup.

FC Dallas secured a 3-2 victory in the last minutes of stoppage time.

Orlando City, however, has seen progress throughout the off-season.

With forward Dennis Chinn rising amongst Orlando's depth in attack, the Lions attack force is considerably stronger than last year.

"Chinny is still developing and still learning the game," said Coach Heath on Dennis Chinn's performance against the Philadelphia Union. "I think we got a good player, he's very, very quick."

Maxwell Griffin, who was loaned to MLS San Jose Earthquakes during the off-season, scored 11 goals in all competitions last year, and could possibly team up with Dennis Chinn upfront to strengthen City's attack.

Despite missing a penalty against Philadelphia, John Rooney, who

sported the traditional number 10, debuted in front of many City supporters and played a superb game.

"I think the number 10 will be his position," said Coach Heath on Rooney's debut. "I thought he found some really nice pockets of space and distributed the ball well."

Orlando City hopes to see their progress build once the season starts.

During the off-season, Orlando City acquired the Central Florida Kraze and renamed them, Orlando City U-23.

City also acquired youth club, Florida Soccer Alliance, and renamed them Orlando City Youth Club, in order to build a developmental system.

Orlando's next game is against MLS side Toronto FC, in which will be the beginning of the 2012 WDW Pro Soccer Classic.



Fans during an Orlando City match, last season, cheer on their Lions. (File Photo)

Bryan Levine / Valencia Voice

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## 2012 SEASON STARTING SOON!