



"Our military action in Iraq has to be part of a broader strategy to protect our people and support our partners to take the fight to ISIL."
— President Obama on expanding air offensive against ISIS

Collegewide updates

- Osceola Campus to host DACA information forum on Sept. 16, from 7 to 9 p.m., in Building 4 room 105.

- Valencia to show five free films during Global Peace Film Festival, beginning Friday, Sept. 12 on Winter Park Campus with a screening of "Girl Rising."

- Join the Peace and Justice Initiative for Global Peace Week, Sept. 15-19, for celebrations including peace education, music, arts and crafts, guest speakers and film screening. This year's theme is "Coexistence."

- Tickets for the Arts and Entertainment department production "West Side Story" on sale now.

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Osceola Campus has held a flag memorial to honor the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks for the past three-years. Each flag, of the 3,000 planted, represents each person killed that day. The flags are from many nations; just a reminder that not all of the victims were Americans. (Click the photo to view a birds-eye view of this year's flag display.)

Campus-wide 9/11 remembrance events to be held

By Bryce Brimall
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In observance of Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Student Development will be arranging events cross campuses to remember the victims and survivors.

West Campus will be holding a memorial event from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m, in

front of the West Campus library. Veterans from the college will be in attendance to lead a moment of silence at 9:11 a.m. The event is sponsored by Student Development and is in conjunction with Student Veteran Affairs. Refreshments will be served.

Osceola Campus has teamed up with the Rotary Club of Lake Nona to arrange a

display of 3,000 flags, each representing a life lost in the tragedy. Osceola County will be holding their 9/11 memorial service on the campus at 1:30 p.m., and will include participants from the Osceola County's Sheriff's Office, Osceola County Emergency Services, Kissimmee Police and Fire Departments, and St. Cloud Police and Fire Departments.

A remembrance event will also be held at the **East Campus**, in the Mall Area, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. A ceremony will be held at noon, and tables from various campus departments will be set up, including the Marines who will be providing information on recruiting and career opportunities. The Wellness Ambassadors are sponsoring this event.

Representative Geraldine Thompson prepares for visit to West Campus

Central Florida leaders to speak at Valencia in part of Constitution Day

By Ty Wright
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State Sen. Geraldine Thompson will speak on the West Campus, Tuesday, Sept. 16, in part of the college's celebration of Constitution Day.

Senator Thompson is scheduled to speak on the importance of the U.S. Constitution, and will be joined by the League of Women Voters, who will discuss the importance of voting.

Following both group of speakers, those in attendance will get the opportunity to participate in an interactive history lesson. In addition to providing information to students about their table and what their group is, all clubs present will act out an event which led up to the creating of the U.S. Constitution.

"We're encouraging all the clubs present to get as creative as possible," says Jasmine _____, SGA West Director of Student Affairs, who hints she would not be surprised if club members showed up dressed in costumes similar to those of the time.

This event will take place in HSB 105 on West Campus, from 10 a.m. to noon. Food and refreshments will be served.



Ty Wright / Valencia Voice

State Sen. Geraldine Thompson defeated Gary Siplin for the Democratic nomination for Florida Senate District 12 this election.

GOP mulls campaign finance debate

By David Lightman
McClatchy Washington Bureau
MCT Campus

WASHINGTON — Senators return Monday from their summer recess and plan to take up a constitutional amendment to limit big money in campaigns.

It's expected to ultimately fail, and a big reason is Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell and other Republicans are wary of the measure.

McConnell argued in a Politico op-ed that "Democrats who control the Senate say they're more interested in repealing the free speech protections the First Amendment guarantees to all Americans. Their goal is to shut down the voices of their critics at a moment when they fear the loss of their fragile Senate majority.

And to achieve it, they're willing to devote roughly half of the remaining legislative days before November to this quixotic anti-speech gambit."

The Kentucky Republican predicted the measure "won't even come close to garnering the votes it would need to pass. But to many Democrats, that's just the point. They want this proposal to fail because they think that somehow would help them on Election Day _ they think it will help drive to the polls more left-wing voters who don't like having to defend their ideas."

Democrats have rallied behind the amendment. "James Madison argued that the U.S. Constitution should be amended only on 'great and extraordinary occasions,'" said Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., in June when he introduced an amendment.

"I believe we have reached one of those occasions.



Who: Fitz and the Tantrums

When: Sept. 11 at 8 p.m.

Where: CFE Arena

Price: \$29.50 - \$49.50

Contact: 800-745-3000

Tickets: On sale now

Future Shows

What Not To Miss

Amway Center:

Marc Anthony — Oct. 5

Hard Rock Live:

A Day To Remember — Oct. 10 & 11

Foster the People — Oct. 18

Earth Wind & Fire — Oct. 19

Firestone Live:

Ab-Soul — Sept. 19

Flux Pavilion — Oct. 3

House of Blues:

Twenty One Pilots — Sept. 19

Hawthorne Heights — Sept. 23

The Beacham:

Banks — Sept. 20

St. Vincent — Oct. 7

Flying Lotus — Oct. 9

The Social:

Charli XCX — Sept. 26

Tampa Area:

Luke Bryan — Sept. 24



Hollywood Records

Demi Lovato announced she is currently working on a new LP, with a release date following tour.

Demi Lovato to play Amway

By Ty Wright

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Platinum-selling recording artist Demi Lovato has embarked her global tour and makes her way to Orlando's Amway Center Monday, Sept. 15.

She will be joined by "Jar of Hearts" singer Christina Perri, and American duo MKTO, known most for their pop hit "Thank You."

Tickets for the Orlando show range from \$18.50 to \$82.50, and may be purchased online through Ticketmaster's official website.

Door time is 6 p.m.; showtime is scheduled for 7 p.m.

The tour kicked off last week (Sept. 6) in Baltimore, and will run until late October. For all show dates, click here.

Lovato came to prominence in 2009, following her appearance in Disney Channel's television film "Camp Rock," which she starred in alongside the Jonas Brothers. She would go on to sign a recording contract with Hollywood Records and release her debut album, "Don't Forget," the same year.

Her current album, "Demi," topped iTunes charts in more 50 countries around the world. She would go on to earn her second triple-platinum certification in the United States, thanks to the album's leading single "Heart Attack."

UCF ready to bounce back from loss

Knights hope to avoid first 0-2 start since 2005 with win over Missouri

By Danny Morales
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Following a season opening loss to Penn State during Week 1 the UCF Knights will look to avoid going 0-2 for the first time since 2005.

UCF takes in the Missouri Tigers this Saturday, completing a home-and-home series that started back in 2012.

Missouri has opened up the season with back-to-back wins, most recently a 49-24 victory over Toledo. They are



Mike Gramajo / Valencia Voice

William Stanback is UCF's top rushing threat.

averaging 43.5 points per game so far this season.

The Knights will go into this week-end's game against the Tigers with a new quarterback under center, as Justin Holman won the job last week after coming in for Pete DiNovo in Week 1.

Holman finished the game going 9-14 for 204 yards and a touchdown, while DiNovo went 3-8 for 18 yards.

Returning this week for UCF will be running back William Stanback and wide receiver Rannell Hall, who both spent last week on the bench due to injury.

"I think Stanback's a good back, there's no question," said UCF head coach George O'Leary at his weekly press conference. "He had a good pre-season, he's a big powerful kid that can run."

The return of both those players should help out a Knights offense that put up 24 points against Penn State.

"He's 100 percent now," said O'Leary of Stanback's health. "And Hall's back 100 percent, so again I know the offensive coaches are happy their back."

Missouri defeated UCF 21-16 the first time these two teams met back in 2012, that was Blake Bortles first full year as the starting quarterback.

A win against the Tigers would be huge for the Knights coming off Week

1's last-minute loss. The win would also help build momentum for a program who prior to August 30, hadn't lost a game since Sept. 28, 2013.

UCF will look to get back on the winning end on Saturday, Sept. 13 at noon against Missouri. The game can be seen in the SEC Network or heard on the radio at 740-AM.

Follow Danny Morales on Twitter @Danny_Morales_



File photo / Valencia Voice

Rannell Hall



Ty Wright / Valencia Voice

Justin Hollman

Upcoming UCF Knights Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Aug. 30	vs. Penn State	L, 26-24
Sept. 13	at Missouri	12:00 p.m. ET
Sept.20	vs. BCC	6:00 p.m. ET
Oct. 2	at Houston*	7:00 p.m. ET
Oct. 9	vs. BYU	7:30 p.m. ET
Oct. 18	vs. Tulane*	TBA
Oct. 25	vs. Temple*	TBA
Nov. 1	at UCONN*	TBA
Nov. 14	vs. Tulsa*	8:00 p.m. ET
Nov. 22	vs. SMU*	TBA
Nov. 28	at USF*	TBA
Dec. 4	at ECU*	7:30 p.m. ET

* American Athletic Conference game

Player to Watch: Wide receiver Josh Reese

Valencia Voice staff predictions:

Danny Morales: 34-27 MU

Bryce Brimhall: 21-13 UCF

Frank Shala: 24-17 UCF

Cody Taylor: #-## UCF

Ty Wright: 28- 17 MU



Bryce Brimhall / Valencia Voice

The Solar Bears finished the last season 43-24-2-4 and made their first-ever ECHL playoff run.

Solar Bears tickets go on sale

By Danny Morales
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Coming off of their first-ever ECHL playoff run, the Orlando Solar Bears will look to make it two in a row as they open their season at home on Saturday, Oct. 18.

Single game tickets for the Solar Bears 2014-15 go on sale on Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 10 a.m.

Tickets for this season can be purchased at the Amway Center Box Office or at the Solar Bears official website.

Orlando went 43-24-2-4 last season and had their first ECHL playoff berth in the process. Now the Solar Bears will look to ride that momentum and make

the playoffs for a second consecutive year.

The season opener will be on October 18 against division foe, the Greenville Road Warriors at 7 p.m. at the Amway Center.

As a giveaway, the first 3,000 fans on opening day will get a Solar Bears Hat courtesy of Cricket Wireless.

Overall the Solar Bears will feature 20 contests this season, as well as four games during Orange County and Seminole County Schools' Spring Break.

This season's CCM/ECHL All-Star Classic will be hosted by the Solar Bears in Orlando, with a week long of events concluding with the game on January 21, 2015 at the Amway Center.

From baseball diamond to gridiron

Jordan Akins makes his mark on special teams following other career

By Frank Shala
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A veteran receiving core is a major strength for UCF football going into the 2014 season as the Knights return their top three receiving yards leaders from last season. Seniors J.J. Worton and Ranell Hall will anchor the group, but it could be a freshman that has head coach George O'Leary most excited.

"The kid that's really impressed me out there is this Jordan Akins," said O'Leary. "He's a new kid that we signed four years ago as a wide receiver out of Georgia, but he went to baseball. He is a kid that can be the surprise player of the year on this team...he's a great kid, very

mature and he's done everything we've asked of him so far."

Akins, 22, strapped up the shoulder pads for a game for the first time in four years two weeks ago against the Nittany Lions. Akins has spent the last four seasons in the Texas Rangers farm system, where he was drafted in the third round of the 2010 MLB Draft.

"Baseball was my dream sport," said Akins. "I prayed about it and said if I got drafted within the first three rounds I would go."

Akins had a .218 batting average as an outfielder in his minor league career, including a .283 mark in 2011. He also boasted 24 homers and 42 stolen bases in 321 minor-league games. Throughout his baseball playing career, Akins continued to keep football on his radar with UCF also in the back of his mind.

"In high school I had come to a couple games and talked to the coaches and I kind of got the feel for it, and I kind of just fell in love with it," said Akins. "I felt at home, and figured UCF was for me."

An all-state selection as a senior at Union Grove High School, Akins was recruited by some of the nation's top programs, including the University of Georgia, LSU, Georgia Tech, and the University of Tennessee to play football. However, getting the opportunity to help out his family weighed heavy on

his decision to choose baseball instead of football.

"I come from a single mother home, four boys, so that's tough," said Akins. "I made my decision out of high school based on my family situation."

The youngest of his brothers, Akins says he had the full backing of his family when the thought of switching sports surfaced.

"They told me they would support me in whatever I did, and it really made my choice a lot easier," said Akins.

Coach O'Leary's face lights up when talking about the potential and versatility the 6'3, 237 pound Akins possesses. Akins size and skillset could and should come in handy for new quarterback Justin Holman. Number 88 is definitely a player to keep your eyes on this season.

Akins looked strong in the kick return game against Penn State. He contributed 142 return yards for the Knights, including a 68 return in the first quarter. O'Leary still plans on having Akins contribute on the offensive side of the football.

"He adds more talent to the receiving core, the tight end core, he'll have his packages where he's on the field," said O'Leary. "It was his first football game back, even though he has been gone for four years, I think you see he's a talented athlete."



UCF Athletics

Jordan Akins, 22, is in his freshman year at UCF.

Despite adversity, Orlando Predators exceeded expectations during 2014

By Bryce Brimhall
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After Brett Bouchy left the Orlando Predators in a state of disarray in the hands of David Pearsall, not many people thought the team would be able to survive through the season and much less into the playoffs.

The Predators proved doubters wrong however and finished the season as division champions, going 12-8, but narrowly lost to the Cleveland Gladiators 56-46 in the conference championship.

Once the most revered team in the league, the team has appeared in the playoffs 21 out of the 23 seasons of its existence and has won the ArenaBowl in 1998 and in 2000. But the 2012 season ended 4-14 and without a trip to the playoffs, and the 2013 season didn't bode well either going 7-11 and losing in the first round of the playoff to Philadelphia.

With the team tumbling towards a downward spiral, Owner Brett Bouchy sold the team to David Pearsall without resolving their debt with the city forcing them to vacate the Amway Center downtown and move to the CFE Arena located on the UCF Campus.

At their original home of the Amway, the team averaged over 13,000 attendants

per game. At their new home, the Predators only reported an average of just over 5,300.

The future did not look bright for the organization, but with the direction of newly appointed head coach Rob Keefe, and the perseverance of the players on the field, the team returned to their winning ways.

"Not a lot of people gave us a real [chance] to win the south division, or make the playoffs, or even get as far as we did. So I like to think that we fell a little short, however are very proud of the building blocks that we were able to



Danny Morales / Valencia Voice

Wide receiver Greg Carr was named the 2014 NET10 Wireless Rookie of the Year in the AFL.

accomplish for the future."

The Predators blasted their way into the season winning their first three games before losing to the New Orleans Voodoo. Immediately following the loss however, the team's owner, Pearsall, deserted the team for reasons still unknown to the general public.

With ownership in the hands of the league, the organization was up in arms trying to figure out what will be their next move. The team knew that winning fixes a lot of problems, so they hunkered down and just tried to finish out the season as well as they could.

Their plan worked, the team finished 11-7 in the regular season and they managed to attract a new owner in David Siegel, real estate mogul and CEO of Westgate Resorts. Siegel then arranged a new deal with the city to bring the Predators back to the Amway Center where they belong.

Entering late in the season at the quarterback position was Bernard Morris, an Orlando native who managed to come in right when he was needed, when Jason Boltus got injured. Morris completed the season for Orlando with a total of 157-242 passes for 2191 yards, 47 touchdowns, and 6 interceptions.

"I hope this is something that he wants to do, I think that he'll want to stay, this is his hometown for him, and



Danny Morales / Valencia Voice

Head coach Rob Keefe has four championship victories to his credit and is the only person in Arena Football history to win ArenaCup and ArenaBowl titles as both a player and a coach.

we've accomplished some great things this year," said Keefe about the possibility of Morris returning for next season. "We left a lot out on the table and I think that's enough to motivate him to have a full season with us, we'd love to have him back, and we hope he's gonna take us up on that offer."

Another player who showed his incredible worth as a player was wide receiver Greg Carr, a rookie who played his first season of the AFL with Orlando but was able to fight his way to the top of the leaderboard. The six-foot-six receiver was able to tower over his defenders, fin-

ishing the season catching 114 passes for 1440 yards and 36 touchdowns.

Carr was also named the AFL's NET10 Wireless Rookie of the Year.

Looking at the season ahead in 2015, the Predators have all the pieces in place to return themselves to their former glory. They have the right coach, the right venue, and the right owner. With hard work and determination, the team proved they could overcome the odds, now with everything working in their favor, there is little standing between the Orlando Predators and ArenaBowl XXVIII.