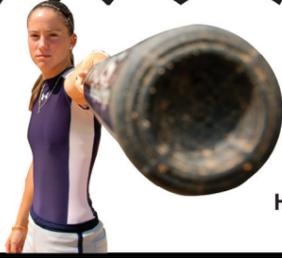




Seminole Voice



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Rats put hopes on postseason after rough summer



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Hagerty girl makes women's national baseball team



World class > 6
Girl wins silver at Special Olympics World Games

www.SeminoleVoice.com

July 29 – Aug. 11, 2011

Free!

College costs rise

NIKKI NAMDAR
The Voice

Seminole State College will raise its tuition by 8 percent starting in the fall to counterbalance the budget cuts that the state has recommended. Bright Futures scholarships will also take a hit and adults no longer can take classes for free.

State funding for the schools was reduced by 9.5 percent, encouraging Seminole State's District Board of Trustees to agree to this change in a June 20 meeting.

Loraine O'Connell, a representative of the college, said the choice was out of their hands. "That all comes down to our Legislature," she said. "All of the colleges and universities have to deal with who has the money, and that's our Legislature."

But Cheryl Eiters of the Florida Department of Education said the colleges and universities were permitted to decide if they wanted to raise the tuition to the level the Legislature proposed. "The legislation allowed schools to raise the tuition, it didn't require them to," she said. "So each college's Board of Trustees would have voted whether to do that."

Valencia College President Sanford Shugart said he did not

■ Please see **TUITION** Page 2

SARAH WILSON
The Voice

Six weeks ago, Claudia Malagon, 35, couldn't tell you what a resume was.

"A lady asked me if I had one of those, and I said, 'I don't have that — I don't know what it is,'" she said.

In the 15 years she lived in Casselberry, working outside of the house had never been an option. Malagon was always at home taking care of her twin autistic sons, that was, until this summer.

In June, Malagon saw a flyer for a free food pantry and summer enrichment program set up by the Casselberry Community Task Force at Casselberry Elementary School. She came in with her boys for groceries and a free meal. But she ended up leaving with a lot more.

"I was asked if I'd like to help volunteer. I asked, 'Could I?'" she said, recalling her excitement. "I went home, dropped off the groceries and came back."

In the past six weeks since her first trip, she's come back every weekday, sons Anthony and Ricardo in tow.

Today, she sits at one of the many long tables in the Casselberry Elementary cafeteria, surrounded by food, clothing and toiletries that she and other task force volunteers have set up to help organize the food pantry here, its summer home.

For Malagon, this job is temporary, like the cafeteria location is for the food pantry. But what volunteering for the task force does give her, she said, is more than even money could buy: a purpose, a cause and a step toward a better future.

"This has been more than just helpful — it's a blessing,"



USPS 008-093
Publisher statement on page 2

Healing a community



Task force supporting needy Casselberry families featured on '60 Minutes'

PHOTOS BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

Mayor Charlene Glancy shows off the Casselberry Community Task Force's newest accomplishment, a clothing donation center for needy families, which is coupled with a food pantry at Casselberry Elementary.

she said.

About the task force

In March, CBS' "60 Minutes" ran a special on the "hard times generation," a story on kids being raised in the recession. The program focused on the growing trend of child homelessness and poverty, using Casselberry Elementary students to exemplify this national trend.

When local community leaders saw the special, they decided they needed to step in and do something for these children.

Sandi Vidal, executive director of Christian HELP, a Casselberry-based program that provides unemployment support, began working to form the Casselberry Community Task Force with the help of a grant from the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation out of Winter Park.

Since June, the task force has been up and running, with the goal of providing community support for needy Casselberry Elementary families.

"It's really about the community supporting the school and being able to make sure the students who raised their hands in the '60 Minutes' special and said they went to bed hungry or have no [electricity] won't be in that situation anymore," Vidal said.

(Task) Force feeding

As summer break loomed, the task force offered to take over a food pantry already up and running at the elementary school in order for it to remain open and available for families during the summer months.

Casselberry Mayor Charlene Glancy, a task force leader and volunteer, said after they got permission from the Seminole County School Board, the food pantry moved from a teacher's home pantry to the school's cafeteria. With the expansion, the pantry added a clothing closet.

"Now when kids come in with a rope around their waist instead of a belt or shoes that are falling apart, we can get them what they need," Glancy said.

Along with the food pantry, the task force also launched a summer enrichment program out of the cafeteria where Casselberry kids, ages 18 and younger, can come not only for a free breakfast and lunch, but a safe place to hang out in between.

From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. every weekday since June 6, Glancy has volunteered to oversee both the pantry and kids program. She said she's seen more than 100 children come through since summer began, with a

steady 30 to 40 showing up every day.

Some kids walk, others ride skateboards and others are dropped off by their parents. All can eat and stay to play with board games donated by local citizens and organizations.

With summer coming to a close, and the school year approaching, the food pantry will soon no longer be able to operate from the cafeteria. Instead, Glancy said, thanks to the donation of the Seminole County School Board, the pantry will relocate to a portable on the edge of the school's campus, which will be its permanent home.

Extreme Makeover: Food Pantry edition

On Aug. 8, the food pantry will move to the portable, deemed too small to be a classroom but perfect for the pantry. But before that can happen, on Aug. 4, a group of local volunteers, funded by Team Depot — Home Depot's community outreach program — will give the portable a total transformation, in the style of the "Extreme Home Makeover" television show.

A fresh coat of paint, new floors, floor-to-ceiling shelving and a built-in office are in the

■ Please see **CASSELBERRY** Page 2

What's goin' on?

Oviedo will celebrate being named in the Top 10 Best Family Friendly Cities at the Oviedo Mall at 5 p.m. Sunday, July 31.

Calendar > 7

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'Cowboys & Aliens'



A cowboy posse struggles against invading aliens in 1873 Arizona.



THIS WEEK



THIS WEEK in history

Aug. 4, 1892 —

Andrew and Abby Borden are found hacked to death in their Fall River, Mass., home. Daughter Lizzie, later immortalized in a rhyme, was arrested and charged with the double homicide. Taken with her Christian persona, the all-male jury acquitted her. Today, the house where the Borden murders occurred is a bed and breakfast.

TUITION | Bright Futures funding will decrease 20 percent; adults will have to pay \$30 a semester

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Universities too

want to meet the suggested 11 percent, but instead, like Seminole State, raised it by 8 percent. "Anytime you raise tuition, you do it thoughtfully, and it's always regretful," he said. "You hate to pass more costs onto any students... We are careful enough [not] to raise it unless we have to... We are still not at the maximum allowed by law this year, and I hope not to get there.... We would not have raised the tuition at all if there was any way to offer them the education they're seeking without doing it, but we just couldn't."

Like the colleges, Florida universities also upped their prices. The University of Central Florida raised its tuition by 15 percent, an 11 percent increase is calculated with tuition and fees combined.

Chad Binette, UCF spokesperson, said regardless of the alterations, the university continues to be prominent. "Despite recent increases in tuition and fees, Florida's public universities still rank among the most economical in the country," he said. " 'Kiplinger' and 'The Princeton Review' this year have recognized a UCF education as one of the best values in the na-

tion based on the quality of academics, cost of attendance and financial aid. Also, Florida universities now have the 48th least expensive tuition and fees in the country."

Shugart had the same sentiments about Valencia's costs. "We are fortunate to live in a place that has had historically low tuition rates, so that when the state makes that shift, it doesn't make it too expensive for the students... The good news is, we still remain below the national median for tuition for two-year colleges," Shugart said. "We are well below the university system tuition, so we remain a pretty good bargain. We can attend our students full-time

for less than \$2,500 per year."

Just when it costs more to enroll in college, Bright Futures Scholarship program took another financial blow — a 20 percent funding decrease. During the 2009-2010 school year at Seminole State, 1,614 students, or 5 percent of the student body, had the scholarship. These students received a total of \$2.6 million in 2010-11.

Vanessa Karpf, an honors sophomore majoring in biology with Bright Futures, said the modifications complicate the public's need for an education. She worries that her family's situation will deteriorate since they rely on her scholarship for her education as well as for her

financial needs.

"Even though I do have a scholarship, I would have to adjust some things," said Karpf, 20. "It's kind of heartbreaking for all that stuff to happen... I think it's a flaw in the system, and it needs to be fixed, it really does. I don't know how, but I just know that it does.... I guess things change and you have to adapt."

Other things changing at Seminole State include a first-time tuition for students registering for Adult Education courses, such as ESOL, ABE/GED and adult high school, which will be \$30 for Florida residents each term, compared to \$120 for a non-Florida resident.

CASSELBERRY | The city's Home Depot will renovate the food pantry's new portable building

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

munity Task Force."

Taking action, changing lives

The Casselberry Community Task Force may just be getting its permanent footing location-wise, but it has already done much to help those in need of assistance in the community, such as Malagon.

She says the task force has given her a place to spend her summer and the resources to get help for her family. When the electricity in her Casselberry home was turned off last month,

Christian HELP, which serves as the umbrella non-profit for the task force, helped her secure vouchers to pay to turn it back on.

In the fall, Malagon, though still unable to take on a job full-time due to the needs of her sons, will pick up two-hour shifts during the week at a cafeteria — much like the one in which she spent her summer. The job is walking distance from her at South Seminole Middle School. She also now has a resume to send out for other employment opportunities.

This, Vidal said, is an example of the "safety net" of resources the task force is looking to provide for Casselberry Elementary families in trying to break the community's cycle of poverty.

Malagon said her sons have also benefited from the socialization provided by the enrichment program. She says she's seen them blossom from shyly sitting in the corner of the cafeteria to joining in a group Bingo game or playing foosball with volunteers.

"For me, it's a relief to see them happy and doing some-

thing," she said. "I'm very happy for them and for me and for everybody because here, we're all helping each other."



Learn more

Visit www.casselberrycommunitytaskforce.org for more information on the Casselberry Community Task Force. Check out the CBS' "60 Minutes" special on homeless children in Casselberry at tinyurl.com/SeminoleCountyHomeless

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UCF students on a roll



PHOTO COURTESY OF MISS FLORIDA

Miss Florida 2011, Kristina Janolo, waves to the crowd on July 9. She is the third consecutive UCF student to win the title. For the full story, visit tinyurl.com/MissFloridaJanolo or scan the above QR code with your smartphone.

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DR. THOMAS KELLEY
FAMILY MEDICINE
PHYSICIAN

HE'S OUR
GO TO GUY

– Betty & Bill Spears, Patients for over 20 years

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Dog days of summer continue

Between the CELERY Stalks *By Janet Foley*

It's hot out there, and that's because we are in what is called the "dog days of summer."

Dog days of summer describes the sultriest days of the year, which occur in the northern hemisphere between July and early September. In the southern hemisphere, this happens between January and early March. Actual dates vary greatly from region to region. The name comes from the ancient belief that Sirius, also known as the Dog Star, was responsible for the hot weather because of its close proximity to the sun.

I feel better remembering the old "dog day" movies and a couple of the old songs. Staying cool, we are hiding out now at the beach, in pools or inside air-conditioned homes. Try the

\$5 movies at the mall on a hot Tuesday afternoon; my friends and I have done that, along with mall walking in the morning. I also have friends who are taking cruises to escape, and one is heading toward Alaska. Whatever; just stay cool. Hopefully the weather will chill down somewhat in several weeks, when our young people start heading back to school to learn about the three R's.

From the farm

Coming up on Saturday, Aug. 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Oviedo Farmer's Market will be open for all to partake in the goodies the vendors have to offer. Our first event was a huge success, and we hope this will also be the same. The market will have a few new vendors

come to participate. The Lawton House will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for those who wish to tour the facility and get a taste of old Oviedo history. The Farmer's Market and the Lawton House are located at 200 W. Broadway St., and if you need more information or want to be a vendor, please contact Lars White at lwhite@cityofoviedo.net

Catch 'E.T.'

Sci-Fi Movie Night at the Geneva Bijou is on Saturday, July 30. Do come around 6:30 p.m. if you want to dine on some fine, locally crafted pizza, and then join the rest of our classic movie group as the movie starts at 7 p.m. A donation is requested of \$5 per person (\$3 for kids younger than 16). Enjoy this night of old-fashioned fun at the Rural Heritage Center, 101 E. Main St., Geneva. This month's sci-fi movie is "E. T. the Extra-Terrestrial," a great family movie.

Homemakers meetings

Geneva is busy with activities! On Wednesday, Aug. 10, the

Geneva Village Homemakers meet at the Geneva Community Center. Come and meet Geneva/Oviedo/Chuluota members and find that we are just plain folks who have a good time and also like to give service to the community. This group of all ages also has within the group a Card Club, Book Club and Dinner Club. Come and visit and see if you might like to join in our fun, friendship and usual potluck lunch. For more information, call Robin at 407-349-0040.

Tennis, anyone?

From 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 12 and Sept. 9 at Red Bug Lake Park, 3600 Red Bug Lake Road, Casselberry, Vintage Tennis, for women and men age 55 or older, features round-robin matches. Cost is \$5, and if you need more information, please call 407-314-6582.

Whale of a Sale

Please keep your calendar marked this year for the First United Methodist Church's Harvest Jamboree and the Whale of a Sale. Please note the dates: Fri-

day, Sept. 30 and Saturday, Oct. 1. Preparations are under way for the big days. If you would like information, call the church office at 407-365-3255.

Food truck time

The Daily City will be hosting another Food Truck Bazaar at the Oviedo Mall. The bazaar will start at 6 p.m. and will last until 10 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 14. More than 15 trucks will be there serving all sorts of goodies from Korean barbecue to cupcakes. So come and try a different supper that evening.

A thought

"The person who knows how will always have a job. The person who knows why will be his boss." —Carl C. Wood

TALK TO JANET

Send word to Janet Foley about events and let her know what's going on around town by e-mailing celerystalks@bellsouth.net

Safe summer driving

STETSON'S CORNER *By Karen McEnany-Phillips*

I've never liked driving in rain. This probably stemmed from the time I was caught in a torrential downpour three days before my high school graduation. I was driving home one afternoon, and suddenly it was as if a high-powered hose was blasting my windshield. I literally couldn't see the white or gold paint marks of my lane or vehicles ahead of me, and I couldn't see where the shoulder was. During that white-knuckle ride, I prayed not to die young, to graduate from high school and probably bargained with God in some lame teenage fashion. Living in Central Florida

in the summer hasn't changed much when it comes to those afternoon thunderstorms.

Last Friday, I did another nerve-wracking drive through the rain eastbound on SR 46, but at least I could see my lane and the shoulders.

My pet peeve in all this is how people drive in rain without their headlights on. Because I drive SR 46 every day, I know there are a steady number of trucks with trailers hauling debris or lawn maintenance equipment. I also see many motor-cycles. I kept my speed around 40 mph out of concern that I might run up on a vehicle with

low or non-existent taillights or on a low-profile vehicle. Turns out my husband was driving in equally bad rain on CR 426, heading toward Geneva, and came up on a vehicle stopped in the road with tail lights that were covered, making them very hard to see.

That same evening, a 17-year-old boy was killed in a crash off Chuluota Road when someone ran a red light at an intersection. In this kind of weather, assessing your speed and allowing ample room to brake in an emergency is difficult and important. Sometimes brakes get wet driving through standing water. You may determine that it is more dangerous to try to hit your brakes than to stop at an intersection. Honestly, we have all done that. But the critical factor is the decision of the other motorists on the scene. If someone sitting at the light doesn't look both ways when his light turns green or a pedestrian steps off the curb to cross

without looking the result can be disastrous.

Summer brings all kinds of hazards to the motoring scene. Weather, of course, includes lightning, standing water, hail, wind, and downed power lines and tree branches. Summer brings out drivers of all ages. We still mourn the passing of the little 2-year-old child in Osteen who broke free of his grandmother's grasp and was killed by a dump truck on Osteen-Maytown Road. I know folks from that area, and almost to a person they say, "everyone speeds" and "it could have been me or my child driving." The posted speed limit is 30 mph for a reason, in what is clearly a residential area. Please enjoy your summer, but stay focused on safety behind the wheel and tell your kids to do the same.

PS: Don't forget to "phone home" and enjoy Sci-Fi movie night on Saturday July 30 at the Rural Heritage Center Bijou Theater. The beloved classic

movie "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial" will be playing. If you've never come out to the RHC for movie night, this is one not to be missed. Bring the family for a real treat. The movie starts at 7 p.m. and locally crafted pizza is served at 6:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for the best costume, and there is a great little concession stand, as well.

TALK TO KAREN

Please share your thoughts about Geneva at **407-221-7002**, kphillips@observernewspapers.com with "Stetson's Corner" in the subject line, or fax **407-349-2800**. Thanks!

This column is dedicated to Deputy Sheriff Gene "Stetson" Gregory, killed in the line of duty on July 8, 1998. Geneva will never be the same because of Deputy Gregory — it will be better.

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INTERESTS



THIS WEEK in human history

Aug. 6, 1928 —

Andy Warhol, one of the most influential artists of the latter part of the 20th century, is born in Pennsylvania. He took literally the advice of an art teacher who said he should paint the things he liked. He liked ordinary things, such as comic strips, canned soup and soft drinks, and so he painted them.

Playing for America

Hagerty player wins spot on national team

JOHN BEDELL
The Voice

Veronica "Ronnie" Gajownik has the glow that comes with a dream — a dream that has been with her for a long time but took a much more defined shape a year ago.

The Hagerty High School softball player was watching the women's College World Series on television when a segment described an athlete from Missouri that played for the women's national baseball team.

"I thought that I might as well try," Gajownik said. "I've always wanted to be the first woman in major league baseball."

With the help of her father, Glenn Richards, Coach Adam Evans and others, a video tryout was produced and submitted to USA Baseball. Then they waited.

"I was at my laptop, and I had to read the email three times," she said with a grin. "I showed it to my dad, and he just stood there and then raised his arms in the air."

She was selected to be a part of the 2011 USA Baseball Women's International Friendship Series at the National Training Complex in Cary, N.C. Two days of practices will be followed with players drafted

for USA teams Red or Blue. Games will be played from Aug. 2-7 with teams from Canada and Australia.

The event is preparation for the 2012 Women's Baseball World Cup to be held in Edmonton, Alberta in Canada.

Born into baseball

Ronnie and her dad have shared a love of baseball for many years. Richards, who serves as the chief meteorologist for Fox 35, played baseball in youth leagues and college. He made sure he would pass that on to his daughter.

"When she came into the world, she just had to play baseball," Richards said with a laugh. "When she was 1 or 2, I would start throwing a ball to her. Later, I took her into the backyard to have her hit."

The lessons took and soon it was T-ball with the boys in Oviedo recreation leagues. She played third base and fit in with her male teammates. By age 8 or 9, Dad thought it may be time to move to softball with the girls.

"I didn't want to play softball," she said. "Dad said it was a better fit for me."

Soon her love for baseball transferred to softball, and she played four years at



PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

Ronnie Gajownik stands with Dad Glenn Richards. She will play baseball for the USA next month.

Hagerty High School for Coach Jay Bergman.

"From the first day I saw her, I said to myself, 'This girl is something special,'" Bergman said. "She played shortstop all four years, and she was the leadoff hitter all four years. She played at such a high level."

"She was a model of consistency. She batted .400 as a junior and .379 as a senior. She is an exceptional defensive player with a strong arm. She has a lot of talent and works very hard to improve herself. She has a lot of determination."

Huskie softball at Hagerty proved a great fit for Gajownik. She counts it as one of her "best experiences" and loved the team "chemistry." This past spring, Hagerty took Winter Springs to extra innings before falling in the district championship game. The Huskies lost to East River in the first round of the Class 6A state tournament.

Huskie teammate Kelsey Carpenter

played third base next to Ronnie. The two had also played youth softball together.

"She's really competitive," Carpenter said. "Playing with her really made me want to do well. We really pushed each other."

Ronnie's softball career will continue this fall at Jacksonville University, where she plans to major in biology.

Great partnership

Some athletes can find it challenging to play their parent's favorite sport. Competing in front of a parent's critical eye can lead to friction. Ronnie said her mom is quick to let dad do the talking about her performance. Dad also knows when to hold back.

"Usually, I know what I did wrong," Ronnie said. "He doesn't need to tell me. He just helps me practice and fix it."

To read the full version of this story, please visit SeminoleVoice.com

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Family Calendar

Trinity Preparatory students, the Walt Disney World Branch of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida and seven other area high schools present the **Broadway musical, "Hair-spray"** Aug. 4-6 at 7:30 p.m.; Aug. 7 & 21 at 2:30 p.m. and Aug. 19-20 at 7:30 p.m. Trinity Prep is located at 5700 Trinity Prep Lane, Winter Park. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door. For additional information, e-mail Janine Papin at papinj@trinityprep.org or call 321-282-2508.

The Pirates are at the Museum of Seminole County History for the traveling exhibit, **"Pirates! The Last Scourge of the Gulf,"** until Friday, Sept. 30. It features kid-friendly interactive displays about Florida's piracy history. 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 13 is "Pirate Day for Kids," with exhibit tours, pirate stories and history and an encounter with a "real" pirate. For additional information, call 407-665-2489.

"You Are Here - Teen Summer Reading" is at the Seminole County Library branches until Wednesday, Aug. 10. Finish your summer reading early or read for fun. Call 407-665-1560 for details.

All A-Board: Board Games & Fun at Oviedo's East Branch Library is 3-4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 3. Cool off inside the Confetti Club and play **crazy board games** with other K-5 kids. It's free. Call 407-665-1560 for more information.

Field Biology Boot Camp II for campers ages 12-15 focuses on higher-level topics such as biology and water resource management. The camp will be Aug. 1-5 at the Yarrowborough Nature Center, County Road 426, Geneva. Call 407-349-0959 to register.

Dinner & Movie Night at the Geneva Bijou is 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13. Join the classic movie group for a \$5 donation per person (\$3 for kids younger than 16). Enjoy this night of old-fashioned fun at the Rural Heritage Center 101 E. Main St., Geneva. This month's classic movie is "Casablanca."

Monday, Aug. 15 is the **first day of the 2011-2012 school year** for all of Seminole County schools.

Home-school ZOOventure class registration begins Wednesday, Aug. 17. Offered by The Central Florida Zoo. Students will be inspired and challenged as they experience the living classroom for these interactive programs. Limited class size allows for personal attention and up close wildlife encounters. A complete list of 2011-2012 classes will be available online Wednesday, Aug. 17. Classes are held September through May. To register, call 407-323-4450, extension 123. Register at least two weeks in advance. Visit centralfloridazoo.org to register online.

ISAAC BABCOCK
The Voice

The air ripples in waves just above the surface of the dark green tennis court as a white Adidas shoe takes a calm step toward the baseline. A skinny, athletic brunette in black wrap-around sunglasses stares up at an electric green ball as it floats for a suspended moment in the sky. Then in a controlled explosion of force, Brittany Tagliareni sends it hurtling across the court before it touches off a plume of dusty clay and scuttles into the distance.

Today there are no cheers for Brittany. There are no flashing camera bulbs and clicking shutters, no giant stadium surrounding her at center court. But the familiar balmy heat on this Monday afternoon reminds her a little of that moment at the top of her sporting world.

On July 3, the Sanford resident stood on the same blue court at Athens Olympic Tennis Center where Olympians had played seven years before. The flashes fired and the shutters clicked as Brittany battled with Australian Kelly Wren for an hour on that sunny Sunday morning. Wren, 33, had been playing for 25 years. Brittany, much younger, had only picked up a racket five years ago.

"I want to be the best in the world," Brittany said. In that moment on the Olympic center court in Greece, she was one match away.

An inner struggle

But the odds were already stacked against Brittany long before she entered that stadium to play the strongest player she'd ever faced. Though she's only a few years into a meteoric rise on the court with the Special Olympics, it's been a struggle with every hit, her mother, Catherine Tagliareni, said.

Though she can return it with lightning precision, sometimes Brittany doesn't remember where to stand to receive the serve. Even after besting dozens of men who've played tennis for decades, sometimes Brittany forgets how to hold her pink-and-black tennis racket.

Staring at her daughter across the court at Sweetwater Country



Brittany's game

PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

Sanford resident Brittany Tagliareni displays the silver medal in singles and a bronze medal in mixed doubles that she won in tennis at the Special Olympics World Games in Athens, Greece on July 3.

Club, Catherine reminds her to grip it just right.

"Don't forget to line the dots up," she says.

Brittany rotates a red dot on the worn white grip of her racket to match up with the red dot on the web of her thumb and readies for another shot. She gazes beyond the white mesh fence separating her from her opponent in pink, easily five years her junior.

The intensity on Brittany's face never changes. The focused but distant stare remains the same, even if she's struggling to remember what to do next. "Don't worry," plays a silent monologue. "Stay calm." The struggle is always waged inside her own head.

In an instant, Brittany's autism can turn too much outside stimuli into a chaotic blur of information, shaking her attention. With that tangle of confusion threatening to destroy what she's learned on the court, she thrives on routine. But it has to be just right.

The afternoon sun bearing down on her, she picks up another ball, tosses it in the air, but then hesitates and catches it. She tries again, again hesitating and catching it. The third time is the charm — her arm whips the rack-

et forward and the ball explodes into the distance. Repetition may be the core of any successful athlete's routine, but for Brittany, her mother said, it's magnified to an obsessive extreme.

"Nothing comes automatically for her," Catherine said. But there is one exception to that. She always follows her brother, A.J. That's automatic.

Learning a new game

It was A.J. who brought her into tennis five years ago. Battling Crohn's disease that at times left him unable to hold a racket for months, he had become a strong competitor anyway. And just like with A.J.'s forays into taekwondo and gymnastics before that, Brittany had to try it.

She immediately caught her coach's eye.

"Brittany had a tenacity that would not be denied," Coach Stan Aranda said. "She will fight to do what she wants to do."

And with that tenacity, she fought through baby steps that would drive other players and coaches to frustration. When a string of coaches struggled to communicate with her, Brittany's mother found new ways.

"I'd even draw stick figures on a court to get her to under-

stand," Catherine said.

Simple tennis terms could at times baffle Brittany, lost in her own world, coping with information overload. But Catherine would find a magic word that finally made sense. And then, ever gingerly, Brittany would take another step forward.

The progress was slow but relentless. Brittany was on the court five to six days a week, always going full force.

"She's a ball machine," Catherine said. "She just keeps hitting them."

A rising star

So Brittany kept hitting, racing across that court under the broiling sun. And as the months wore on into years, "Brushin' Brittany" and her blistering topspin started surprising players across the country. She played men who've been in the game as long as she's been alive, and she won tournaments in Georgia, in Virginia, in North Carolina. She won the state title. She won nationals. Then she did it again.

In June, as the top-ranked female Special Olympian in American tennis, she set her sights on the World Games.

■ Please see **TENNIS** Page 8

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Calendar

ONGOING

The **Winter Springs Farmers Market** is every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on State Road 434 and Tuskawilla Road in the Winter Springs Town Center. Visit WinterSpringsFarmersMarket.com for more information.

The **Oviedo Farmers Market** is the first Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the grounds of the Historic Lawton House, 200 W. Broadway St. Visit OviedoHS.com for more information.

The **Planetarium at Seminole State College** of Florida will host the following: "Central Florida Nights," presented from 8:30-9:30 p.m. Fridays, July 29, Aug. 5 and Aug. 19. "A Star to Steer By" will be presented from 8:30-9:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 30. "Luna" will be presented from 8:30-9:30 p.m. on Saturdays, Aug. 6, Aug. 20 and Aug. 27. "Stories of the Night Sky" will be presented from 8:30-9:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 26. Visit seminolestate.edu/planet or call 407-

708-2360.

The Adult Literacy League is now offering a variety of **free classes for adult learners** with low levels of literacy in Orange and Osceola counties. Call 407-422-1540 or visit adultliteracyleague.org

JULY 30

Corrine Drive Animal Hospital will host a series of events benefiting local area non-profit organizations on Saturday, July 30, at Corrine Drive Animal Hospital, in Orlando. For more information, call 407-365-2222 or visit orlandovets.com

The **Seminole County Small Farms Workshop series** will present information and encourage opportunities to help individuals and businesses thrive in an urban environment on Saturday, July 30 at the Seminole County Extension Office. Selected topics include: getting started in vegetable production, producing a successful fruit crop, hydroponics,

livestock production and community gardens. Registration is \$15 and includes lunch. Call 407-665-5554.

Saturday, July 30 (and every fifth Saturday of the month) is **Sci-Fi Movie Night featuring "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial"** at the Geneva Bijou. Come around 6:30 p.m. if you want to dine on some fine, locally crafted pizza; the movie starts at 7 p.m.; There is a \$5 donation per person and \$3 for kids younger than 16. Enjoy this night of old-fashioned fun at the Rural Heritage Center, 101 E. Main St., Geneva.

JULY 31

Oviedo was named in the Top 10 Best Family-Friendly Cities in the country in which to live. There will be a **city-wide celebration at the Oviedo Mall** on Sunday, July 31 at 5 p.m. Oviedo-Winter Springs Life will gather all attendees of this event in the food court area for a commemorative poster-size photo for the September/October issue cover.

AUG. 8

Cuplet Fern Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society is having its August Chapter Meeting on Monday, Aug. 8, 6:30 p.m., at the Sanford Garden Club, 200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford. The program is **"Trees and How They Grow in Your Yard"**. Urban Forester Andy Kittsley will speak. It's free. Call 407-302-7616.

AUG. 9

"Picnics & Backpacks to Tailgates" is 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 9 at Seminole County Extension Services kitchen, 250 W. County Home Road, Sanford. Learn healthy food safety and preparation techniques for to-go meals. Pre-registration is required. Each class is \$10. For more information, call 407-665-5560 or visit seminolecountyfl.gov/extensionsservices

AUG. 13

"Gourmet Meals after the Storm" will be held from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 13 at Seminole County Extension

Services, 250 W. County Home Road, Sanford. For more information, call 407-665-5560.

AUG. 14

Orlando Food Truck Bazaar is from 6-10 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 14 (and the second Sunday of every month) at the Oviedo Mall, 1700 Oviedo Marketplace Blvd. The event features 15 food trucks. For more information, visit thedailycity.com

AUG. 20

There will be a **community garage sale** at Del Taco on Saturday, Aug. 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Oviedo Del Taco parking lot. Send an email to Raychell at Raychell@aol.com to reserve your space.

AUG. 28

Freedom Ride's 11th annual fundraiser hosted at Arabian Nights is at 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28. Call 407-239-9223.

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1. Visit the contest website: tinyurl.com/ObserverAvenger
2. Correctly answer all the Captain America trivia questions.

Hurry! Contest only open until 07/31/11. Winners will be randomly selected from entries with 100% correct answers. Winners will be contacted by Tuesday, August 9. No purchase necessary.

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Legal Text & Disclaimers: Contest will run from July 6, 2011 to July 31, 2011. No purchase necessary to play or win. A grand total of 200 tickets will be awarded. For a list of winners email trcraft@observernewspapers.com after August 9, 2011.

Brought to you by **REGAL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP** and **Observer**
Winter Park / Maitland

Notes

The Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Classic Junior TOUR completed the 2011 season at Disney's Magnolia Golf Course with clear skies and, most importantly, with great golf. Kevin Reilly, from Oviedo, captured his first Tour Championship win with a smooth three-under-par 69. Reilly finished his last five holes at 3-under-par with birdies on 14, 16 and 17 and attributed most of his success to solid iron play, which gave him better birdie opportunities throughout his round.

Members of the Oviedo-Winter



Springs Regional Chamber of Commerce recently named **Paul P. Partyka** as the area's best commercial realtor and NAI Realvest in Maitland the area's best commercial property company. The 2011 Fan Favorites Ovations, an annual poll of Oviedo-Winter Springs Chamber of Commerce members sponsored by the Seminole Voice, cited Partyka and NAI Realvest as the best in the commercial real estate arena.

This year, 35 employees of the Winter Springs Police Department met tenure. Donald Cheney, Ellen Simpson, Michael Noland and Richard Brookover were recognized for their 25 years in law enforcement for the city of Winter Springs.

The Rural Heritage Center is in need of a volunteer who would like to assist the executive director in continuing the development and carrying out of day-to-day operations of the center. Applicants must have strong fundraising capabilities, management and organizational skills. Please send

your resume and questions to rural-heritage1@gmail.com

School news

The following students received degrees from Washington University in St. Louis on Friday, May 20.

Cathryn Benedict Chetek, daughter of Cynthia Dupre Benedict and John William Benedict of Longwood, received a graduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis. Chetek graduated with a Juris Doctoris from the School of Law. Chetek graduated in 2007 from University of Florida in Gainesville with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology.

Ashley Spooner, daughter of Nettie and Edward Spooner of Oviedo, received a graduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis. Spooner graduated with a Juris Doctoris from the School of Law. Spooner graduated in 2008 from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C. with a Bachelor of Arts.

James Biscardi, Holli Brunkala,

Nicole Knox, Kathleen Lynch, all of Winter Springs, have been named to the dean's list at the Savannah College of Art and Design for spring quarter 2011.

Three of Central Florida's top educators made the grade recently as the newest Holler Driver's Mart Heroes, including **Tammy Lewis**, a fourth-grade teacher at Midway Elementary School of the Arts in Seminole County. She has more than 16 years of experience in the classroom and specializes in math and science education.

The University of Central Florida theatre department, formerly known as the "UCF Conservatory Theatre," is changing its name to "**Theatre UCF**." The name change is part of the transition of the theatre department into the School of Performing Arts. The other department in the School is the music department, known as UCF Music. Call 407-823-1500 or visit theatre.ucf.edu

Host a high school foreign exchange

student in August. You provide bed, meals, inclusion in daily family life and a window into U.S. culture. Contact Betsy at 321-277-7198 or visit afsusa.org

Oviedo and Winter Springs High School took first and second place respectively for the second time this year in the Leadership Seminole 2011 Character Video Contest. Oviedo students **Allison Tate-Cortese, Brittany Skeels, Dhruv Patel, Cameron Lynah, Alana Harris and Casey Jones** created the video. Winter Springs' students were Amy Barclay, Alyssa Rhinehart, Adam Bowen, Blake Edwards, Enzo Menezes, Evan Theune and Garret Etheridge.

Biz news

Mattress World signed a five-year lease for 4,200 square feet of retail space in the Shoppes at Red Bug, located at 7505 Red Bug Lake Road in Oviedo. This is the fourth lease Equity Investment Services has completed at the center, making it completely occupied.

TENNIS I

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

It would be the first time she would face Kelly Wren, the Australian who also struggled with autism. A seasoned competitor, Wren hammered the ball harder than Brittany had ever seen, challenging her to keep up.

"It was all sped up," Brittany said.

But she kept battling with that unflinching tenacity. And though she walked out of the big stadium with a silver medal, Brittany did something even her mother hadn't seen her do after a major loss — She smiled.

"Even though she had just lost, she was just smiling to the cameras," Catherine said. "She loved it."

She would walk away with a silver medal in singles and a bronze in mixed doubles with partner Jon Fried. But then in a moment, it was over.

The road back

The smile took a while to fade, Catherine said, but when it did, the emotions hit hard. Three days after returning home from Greece, Brittany realized what she had lost, off her big stage, away from new friends, away from the cameras. It wasn't just the game, it was the experience. She wanted it back. She wants to go back. She still wants to be the best in the world.

She's got four years until the next Special Olympics World Games. Four years of hammering that ball on the court. Four years of baby steps. Four years to be the best.

"I'm always learning," Brittany said. "I'm always watching."

And so on that hot Monday afternoon at practice, she picked up another ball. Her white Adidas toed the serve line in the same spot as it had thousands of times before, but her stance was a little bit different, a little bit better.

"You are woman, hear you what?" Coach Aranda yelled across the court.

"Roar!" Brittany yelled back. She tossed another electric green ball into the air, and it hung there, just for an instant, before she rocketed it down the line.

Score another point for Brittany.

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ATHLETICS



THIS WEEK in sports history

July 31, 1916 —

July 31, 1916 — Future racing legend Louise Smith, who will become the first woman inducted into the International Motorsports Hall of Fame, is born in Barnesville, Ga. In her first race, unaware that a checkered flag meant the finish line, Smith kept going when the race ended until someone threw out a red flag.



ARCHIVE PHOTOS BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

Sanford has slowly fallen to the bottom of the league after a strong start.

Closing in on the playoffs

Rats continue to fall while Dawgs look for comeback

ISAAC BABCOCK
The Voice

The Winter Park Diamond Dawgs took a beating over the weekend, falling 2 1/2 games behind the Leesburg Lightning in the FCSL standings.

Closing in on the final week of the regular season, the Dawgs have precious little time to catch back up to the Lightning to take the championship.

Meanwhile the Sanford River Rats continue to struggle to stay above the league doormat Winter Haven Loggerheads. But that's been a tough fight, as the Rats have managed to narrowly split their last two games, losing 5-1 on July 21, then coming back 5-4 to win on July 24.

For the Dawgs, two straight losses heading into the start of the week tie them for the worst losing streak they've had all year. The big blow came against Leesburg July 25, when they fell 6-4 in a game that would have put them just 1/2 game out of

first place.

And for a brief moment, they held that win in their hand after a three-run rally in the bottom of the sixth in front of their home crowd lifted them up 4-3 over the Lightning.

That soon turned into a nightmare for the would-be victors, who watched a brief Lightning rally in the top of the seventh tie up the game. The Dawgs were then held hitless for three straight innings while the Lightning slowly built a comeback.

The game would end 6-4 with the Lightning on top, pulling away at the top of the league. Reed Reznicek was the unlucky man on the mound for the game, giving up two earned runs that turned the tide in the game and being pulled after retiring just one batter.

Ted Blackman had a big hit, hammering his third homerun of the season in the third inning.

For the Dawgs, another re-

match against the Lightning at press time Tuesday could turn the tide of the season. They'll go on a four-game road trip this week, at Winter Haven Thursday, then in Leesburg again Friday, Sanford Saturday and Winter Haven again Sunday. At 7 p.m. Friday, the Rats will play Orlando at Sanford Memorial Stadium.

Then next week, it's postseason time in the FCSL.



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Local Orthodontist Giving Back to Kids in Our Community

in More Ways Than One

BY COREY GEHROLD

Dr. David R. Lach, owner of Lach Orthodontic Specialists, is giving back to the community in a variety of ways as part of his commitment to make East Orlando a better place to call home.

Free Colored, Customized Mouth Guards for Youth Sports Teams

In an effort to educate parents, coaches and young athletes about the prevalence of sports injuries and how many of these can be reduced or prevented by wearing proper protective mouth gear, Dr. Lach's office will be providing free mouth guards to local sports teams.

"Accidents and injuries are a part of sports, but many involving the mouth can be avoided if proper mouth guards are worn," says Dr. Lach. His office will be offering colored, custom fit mouth guards (valued at \$250) free of charge as an alternative to the "one size fits all" guards found in sporting goods stores. "These special devices are carefully designed to provide optimal protection from facial and dental injuries during sports," he says.

The office also welcomes players from all organizations to join them for an end of the season sports parties with food and games.

Promoting and Rewarding Positive Behavior

Dr. Lach would also like to acknowledge area youth's accomplishments in academics, athletics, arts, music and community service through the use of the office's Fin-Tastic Rewards Card.

"The program allows us to work directly with coaches, parents, teachers and community leaders to recognize our youth through a points system," says Dr. Lach. "Participants simply track points and cash in on free prizes from retailers like StarBucks, McDonalds, Sports Authority, Target, Game Stop and iTunes."

For complete details about the program, visit www.Lach-Ortho.com.

Smiles for Hope Foundation Offers Orthodontic Care to Kids in Need

The Smiles for Hope Foundation aims to provide orthodontic care for several patients each year that may not be able to obtain the assistance they require because of their financial or special situations.

"We have several children participating in our program now and each time they visit our practice for orthodontic treatment they arrive in style," says Dr. Lach. "A stretch Hummer limo brings them to their appointment and while they're here, we have a Family Fun Night of games, inflatables, free food and ice cream."

Family Fun Nights are open and free to all patients and residents in the community. Events are hosted every two months. Applicants can enter online or at the practice's office.

Lach-Star Winner to Receive Free Braces

Recognizing that not everyone can receive free braces through the foundation, Dr. Lach created a contest to win free orthodontic care called "Lach-Star" which is open to all area children.

To enter, contestants must first post a video of themselves dancing, singing or performing to the practice's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LachOrthodonticSpecialists. Then, simply tag the video with "Lach Ortho" and have friends comment on the post.

The contest will end August 5. The top three finalists will perform onstage during the next Family Fun Night on August 9. The winner will receive free braces with the runners up going home with an iPod product.



If you would like more information, visit Lach-Ortho.com or call us 407-359-1960.



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2003	\$122,504	\$122,504	\$66,997
2004	\$131,079	\$131,079	\$73,026
2005	\$140,255	\$140,255	\$80,256
2006	\$150,073	\$150,073	\$96,817
2007	\$160,578	\$160,578	\$86,677
2008	\$171,818	\$171,818	\$85,199
2009	\$183,845	\$183,845	\$69,628
2010	\$196,715	\$196,715	\$69,628

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Illustration period: 8-31-2000 through 8-31-2010. Each example shown assumes \$100,000 initial premium with no withdrawals. Market value based on the S&P 500® Index. Historical performance of the S&P 500® Index should not be considered a representation of current or future performance of the Index or of any annuity. Hypothetical index annuity product illustration assumes crediting method of a 6% annual point-to-point cap and annual reset. Hypothetical Income Rider Value assumes a 7% annual rate of return for income purposes. Illustration values represent gross returns. Assumed annuity rates and actual historical prices of the S&P 500® Index were used in this purely hypothetical example for the purpose of illustrating comparative values and to illustrate how the Interest-Crediting Strategy might have performed using different assumptions but the same Index performance. Assumptions are not guaranteed. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

Bob Adams
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VOICES



THIS WEEK in political history

July 29, 1958 —

The U.S. Congress passes legislation establishing the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, a civilian agency responsible for coordinating America's activities in space. NASA was created in response to the Soviet Union's Oct. 4, 1957, launch of its first satellite, Sputnik I.

Protect your image on social networks

EMPLOYMENT

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Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and now Google+ are all ways to connect with others through the Internet. They can be very helpful with job search or very harmful.

The FTC recently allowed a company called Social Intelligence to start doing

social media background checks. Like credit checks, the employer will have to inform you if they use this service and if a negative decision is made because of it, but how scary is that?

I have talked for several years about the advantages and disadvantages of social media. I am very active with LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook. My privacy settings for Facebook are pretty high, but for the other two, I am a bit lax. Google+ requires more time than I have in a day, so I have not even thought about joining.

Social media can benefit you in so many ways. It can renew connections and help you to make new ones. It is a

great way to learn about jobs, people and companies. It can also be the death knell of the interview process.

From what I have seen, people are pretty open about their political views, talking about their problems and slamming their boss. I have one friend who starts every week wishing it was Friday and talking about how she wished she didn't have to go to work. I am fairly certain her boss is not on her friends list.

I do my research on people. If you apply for a job with us, I will look you up. I want to make sure you are a fit and your values align with ours. Social media gives you a rare glimpse at people that

you may not even get in an in-person meeting. It pays to be careful of what you put out there, whether you are job seeking or not. What you put on the Internet stays on the Internet.

TALK TO SANDI

Sandi Vidal is the executive director for Christian HELP and the Central Florida Employment Council, with more than 10 years of recruiting and human resources experience. Please send questions about employment by fax 407-260-2949, sandi@christianhelp.org, or mail Ask Sandi C/O Christian HELP, 450 Seminola Blvd., Casselberry, FL 32707.

Letters to the Editor

Casey should not be free to party

I can't understand the emotional outburst by the left-leaning bleeding hearts who sympathize with Casey Anthony merely because she wasn't caught with her hands on the register and also the fact that there wasn't any DNA or other forensic evidence tying her directly to the death of her daughter.

Please folks, have you ever heard of "exclusive opportunity"? It is applied very effectively in states outside of Florida. It simply theorizes that if the evidence points to a specific person as having had the opportunity to kill or cause the death of another, that person is guilty of manslaughter or murder.

Casey Anthony took the Fifth Amendment and has failed to disclose at any time, based on the public record, what transpired between the time she left her house with the baby in the car and the time she and her grandparents were forced to call the police to report the baby missing after 31 days of mysterious lies by the mother of the baby. She even stated that she was sending the police on a wild goose chase. This clearly means that she was buying time in order to eradicate physical evidence that could have been found should the baby been found earlier.

The police themselves contributed to her efforts by not responding and physically viewing the site that the meter reader reported having found a skull at.

However, George and Cindy Anthony both agreed that the trunk of the car smelled as if a dead human being had been stored there.

I was a homicide detective, and I can reinforce the fact that this smell is unique, and it does not disappear into thin air. It stays and lasts for a long time.

Further inspection and forensic examination discloses that there was human decomposition and the presence of chloroform. One needs to know that chloroform does not stick around for a long time, and it dissipates with time.

The amount of chloroform used on this child was not excessive because the effect desired was to put her to sleep while mommy had herself a good time.

The grandparents refused to baby-sit, and Casey could not find anyone to exercise that role in the short time apparently allotted. We have to surmise that some plan had been concocted prior to its execution, especially if we agree with the state that she searched the computer for information relative to chloroform and once on how to make

chloroform.

Her mind was made up, and nothing in this world was going to stop her from satisfying her id and enjoying the nightlife.

She takes the baby and applies a small dose of chloroform to get her to go to sleep so that she could have an uninterrupted and satisfying nightlife.

She could not leave the baby in the back seat of the car because any passerby observing the baby there could call the police, and she would, of course, be arrested.

She places the baby in the trunk and takes a measure against the possibility that the baby could wake up early and, finding herself in the dark and short of oxygen in the trunk, start screaming and possibly call attention. So she applies some tape across the face, always thinking that she would return on time to free her baby and return her home.

She apparently became too engaged and possibly wasted and forgot about the baby in the trunk, and when she finally returned to the car, she found her baby had suffocated. Now panic sets in, and she needs time to figure a way out.

It is my opinion that she definitely had help in finishing her heinous activity.

While she is seeking help and figuring out a way to

resolve her criminal act — and because of our weather — the body starts to decompose in the trunk.

Forensics also found a strand of hair that was traced to the little girl in the trunk.

Please believe me, there is no amount of garbage that could create the smell coming from human decomposition.

She has the cops chasing ghosts, and if the cadaver dog is on the money, attempted to bury the body of the little girl in her backyard, changes her mind and again with someone's help, wraps the body and dumps it where it was finally found.

She has, to date, failed to tell anyone what she did with Caylee after leaving her house except for lies and more lies that were proven to be just that.

If you put two and two together, the only real resolution

to this case is that she inadvertently caused the death of her daughter, and she should have been found guilty of manslaughter.

One needs to believe that her demeanor in court was very antagonistic and challenging, cold and calculating and not that of emotional response brought on by the death of her only child.

The state should have never gone after murder and the death penalty. Human beings being human beings, more and more each day leaning left, would not consider recommending the death penalty.

This is my take on this case, and Casey Anthony should not be walking out of jail a free woman to enjoy her nightlife while the recovered bones of her daughter lay in rest.

—Ed Martinez
Winter Springs

Have an opinion?

Put it in writing and send your thoughts to associate editor Isaac Babcock at editor@observernewspapers.com

Young Voices

We asked Seminole County kids to name their favorite animals.



I like horses, turtles, fish, dogs and cats — I really love all animals. I grew up with them, and I saw horses a lot — they are a part of my life.
—Amelia C.
8 years old



I like giraffes because they have long necks. I saw them at the zoo. They are yellow and brown — one licked my belly!
—Molly C.
6 years old



I like German shepherd dogs. We have two German shepherd dogs, Dixie and Duke, who are black, brown and tan. They protect us, and they are really cute.
—Dylan K.
8 years old



I like giraffes because they have long necks and so do I. I fed them once, and they have long purple tongues. Also, I like otters — I saw an otter on the river once.
—Marie A.
11 years old



I like horses, dogs and snakes. I really like baby snakes; they are fun and they wrap around you. I ride horses, and we have two boxer dogs. I want to be a vet, so it is good practice to be around them.
—Ashley F.
11 years old

We would love to hear from your **Young Voices!**

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