



Locals React

The verdict is in
and the opinions
are out,

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Not guilty: Casey vindicated

Mother cleared of murder charges related to Caylee Marie's death

By Shay Castle
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Casey Anthony was declared not guilty of the murder of her daughter, Caylee Marie Anthony.

The jury handed down the verdict today at 2:15 p.m., after only ten hours of deliberation.

The 25-year-old wept only as the judge

announced the jury's decision and addressed the defendant. Casey's parents, George and Cindy Anthony, left through the back of the courtroom after the verdict was read.

Anthony was cleared of the charges against her of first degree murder, manslaughter of a child, and aggravated manslaughter. She was convicted on all four counts of falsifying information.

A post-verdict press conference was planned for members of the jury to speak, but none came forth. Prosecutor Lawson Lamar said in a press statement that the state owed a debt of gratitude to the men and women of the jury for their dedication throughout the trial.

The hearing for the sentencing will take place Thursday at 9 a.m.

Students surprised

Valencia reacts to Anthony verdict

By Shay Castle
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"I think we are all surprised," said Philip Farris, in reaction to the Casey Anthony verdict on Tuesday afternoon.

Anthony was found not guilty on counts of murder and manslaughter. The decision by the jury sparked a flurry of strong emotions, in the courtroom and among media outlets.

"It was the gut feeling that most people had that she would be convicted," Farris said after watching the reading of the verdict on Valencia's West Campus.

Computer science major Shane Rowe, shared the sentiment.

"There was a lot of evidence," Rowe said. "Circumstantial evidence could at least convict her of manslaughter."

Rowe and Farris agreed that the lack of concrete evidence, such as a witness to the death and an identifiable murder weapon, led the jury to their decision.

"I knew it was going to happen," said Jill Kreppein, a social work major. "That is the way it all works; reasonable doubt."

Unlike most spectators, Kreppein maintains that she never formed a steadfast opinion as to Anthony's guilt or innocence.

"I think she had something to do with it," she said, "but the jury couldn't tell and they had more evidence than I had."

Kreppein lays the onus of blame with the prosecuting attorneys, not the jury.

"The prosecution wasted too much money by developing new science that hadn't been proved or used before," she said. "There were too many gaps in their case that they didn't deal with."

Not every student felt so sympathetic to the jury. Royal Sims said he was "ashamed" of the twelve men and women, asserting his belief that Anthony, even if not guilty of murder, should be held responsible in some way.

Brittany Ross watched the announcement in the student lounge and discussed the verdict enthusiastically with her fellow students.

"It wasn't the jury's fault," said the graphic design major. "She played some part in her child's death and got off scot-free."

Top social media reactions to the Casey Anthony verdict

"So just to clarify... It is okay when Casey Anthony murders children but not when I try to do it? Sigh."-@Lord_Voldemort7 via Twitter

"Ok rant over. All orlando needs is for 'Men in black' to come wipe our memories from the past 35 days,"-Bryan Torres via Facebook

"Don't worry about Casey Anthony guys! This just in: Dexter Morgan has decided to move to Orlando,"- Christine Seraceno via Tumblr

"Everyone mad at our judicial system, be mad at the prosecution...they had the burden and didn't meet it. They never answered how Caylee died,"-MichaelHopkins via Twitter

"Hey @caseyanthony , OJ says to text him Jose Baez's number,"-CaptainPajamas via Twitter

"Casey Anthony babysitting service: Because sometimes you just gotta party,"-Muaythaisneato via Twitter

"Some network is now planning a reality show for Casey Anthony..."-Loni_Love via Twitter

"This is not the first time Florida has messed up in voting,"-Aivynguyen via Twitter

"If Casey writes a book, I will be first in line to rent it from the public library, but I will NOT buy it and give her one cent,"-SwatsyGator120 via twitter

"Micheal Vick goes to jail for killing dogs, but #caseyanthony doesn't for killing her child? C'mon now,"-rayoayo3 via twitter

"Waiting for Casey Anthony's book 'If I Did It,'" -Steffanie Lenora Morrison via Facebook

"The Monopoly man gave Casey the get out of jail free card,"-Michael Ciambriello via Facebook

"I want Jeff Ashton to flick off the jury,"-Verónica Figueroa Benítez via Facebook

"The 3 ring circus distracted the Jury,"-Nikki Lynn Hutton via Facebook

"Casey to George: 'hey dad, sorry for throwing you under the bus...can we go home now?'" -Anthony Romano via Facebook

Aftermath caught on camera



A passionate citizen argued with media and onlookers about Casey's guilt.



Patrons at the Ramshackle Cafe in Leesburg, FL are schocked as the jury declared Anthony 'not guilty.'



Police tape hold back spectators waiting to capture images of attorneys leaving the courthouse.



A large crowd gathered in front of the Orange County Courthouse on Tuesday in anticipation of the verdict.

Casey is responsible at the end of the day

By James Tutton

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One of the biggest stories in American news today is the high profile murder trial of Casey Anthony. After several years of developments in this drama-filled trial, the jury has decided the fate of this young woman as, not guilty.

The main disagreement against the murder charge has been the evidence appears to be circumstantial, but is it?

The fact is that Casey had possession of her deceased daughter's body on June 16th 2008, as stated by her attorney, Jose Baez, in the opening statements. Casey went 31 days knowingly concealing the death of her child, rather than reporting her missing.

This is a trial about desperate acts and desperate people.

Casey's litany of lies, in her futile attempt to avoid responsibility for the death of Caylee, is the desperation of a young mother who wants the freedom to live her life without the burden of a child.

George Anthony expressed his desperation upon the discovery of his granddaughters' remains in his attempted suicide and in the suicide note. Cindy Anthony tried desperately to implicate herself in the damaging Internet searches, a vain attempt to prevent her daughter Casey from receiving the death penalty.

Though there is no "smoking gun" piece of evidence, there is, in reality, a dead child whose mother is likely responsible. There exists a trail of evidence from the admission of Caylee's death on June 16th, to the deception thereafter, the false police statements, odor in the car, and multiple attempts to blame others.

Common sense is the key to understanding the true actions surrounding this trial. Motive and opportunity are the gun.

Home videos and photographs portray a happy, loving family, while the drama leading up to the trial shows the Anthonys' darker side filled with deception. The fact remains that Caylee died with her mother's knowledge, and she attempt to conceal the death and body. We must ask ourselves if it really matters how she died. Ultimately, the jury has decided the level of Casey's responsibility in the death of her little girl.

What is your reaction to the Casey Anthony verdict?



"I don't think she is guilty. They didn't have enough proof."

—Dameshia Marshal



"I thought she was guilty, but the jury saw it differently."

—Justin Knight



"Something happened to that baby, and she knows what."

—Shannon Carson



"I thought she was guilty but justice is served I guess. God knows what really happens."

—Wendell Smith



"I'm dissappointed in the verdict. She should of been charged with something like second-degree murder."

—Cameron Parson



"The State didn't prove it's case, and the baby didn't get any justice."

—Mimi Sinclair-Savage



"To get a murder conviction, you need the evidence. The jury did the best they could."

—Isaac Herrera



"As a mom I don't buy this story. Moms don't go without reporting their kids missing."

—Rachial Tinsaly

MY VOICE

Liberty and justice for all?

How America lost its way on path to progress

By Jeff Shedden
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As we look back on our 235 years as a nation, we have to ask whether or not we've walked along the path laid out for us by not only our founding fathers, but all of those who fought for our independence.

You can't turn on the cable news these days without hearing pundits talking about what our founders intended in regards to modern government.

The thing is, those men didn't all agree across the board about how the government should be run. Washington was worried about corruption, Jefferson was worried about citizens' rights, and Franklin was skeptical about the entire experiment.

It is true that none of them wanted to see a large government, but a nation and economy of this size needs some oversight.

In *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission* (2010), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that corporations can be legally declared individual citizens for political campaign purposes. Since the candidate who spends the most tends to win, we no longer have candidates who support our best, personal interests.

We are destroying unions in favor of corporations' bottom lines and to take the last amount of power away from the workers. We have seen our economy ran-

sacked by financial institutions and corporations exploiting economic policies and laws, and rather than hold them to task, we continue to vote for politicians who support these destructive behaviors.

As we get closer to a quarter millennium, we, the people, need to realize that this is our land. We need to stop passing laws that serve the purpose of keeping people poor, unemployed and uneducated. We can not support laws that deprive one person of rights and benefits that other people can enjoy without limit.

In America we promote an expendable workforce over an efficient one. Healthcare, vacation time, and reasonable wages promote a healthy, efficient workforce, yet these things are often the first attacked as harmful to business. Companies who pay minimum wage would pay you less if they could. Regulation is necessary because as these corporations get larger, the workforce becomes more dehumanized.

We're killing ourselves and we're not even making it worth it.

Washington would have lost his mind if he even suspected the *Citizens United* decision would even be considered. Jefferson would chew on his own hat if he had known of the necessity of unions and the current trend of destroying them. And Franklin would give a simple "I told you so," about the whole mess.



July 4th festivities bring out record crowds to show love for their country

YOUR VOICE

I just wanted to comment on the quality of the Valencia Voice. I applaud the journalistic focus becoming more news oriented and the paper's willingness to take on controversial local issues on the Valencia campuses and in the community.

The student team is producing quality journalism that would be worthy of any college or university paper.

Thanks to the staff for caring so much about bringing real news to the students and faculty readership.

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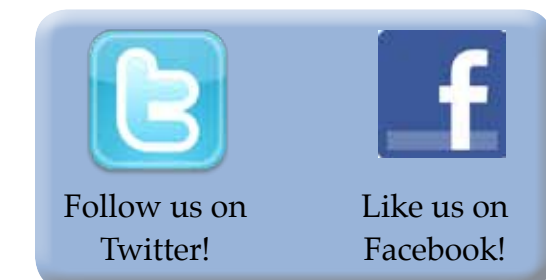
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‘Bringing the Love’ to Orlando

Florence+the machine hypes up crowd at sold-out venue

By Sebastin Arbelaez
Special to Valencia Voice

With an extensive 18-leg tour that consisted of concerts at the Greek Theater and a supporting act in U2’s highest-grossing tour, Florence+ the Machine finally showcased their talent in Orlando at the Hard

Rock Live.

Led by 25-year-old British singer, Florence Welch, the band has been praised around the world for combining various genres of music. As presented in the opening song, “My Boy Builds Coffins,” the fusion of soul and baroque-pop enchanted the 3,000 diehard fans in the sold

out venue.

“I’ve been waiting to see her for six months,” said Rachel Wendt. “It was everything that I had expected.”

Welch proved that she could give the electrifying performance that fans were expecting.

The crowd chanted for several minutes after the show, demanding an encore which the band happily delivered. The encore began with a song from the forthcoming album entitled “Bedroom Hymns,” building tension to the final song of the night “Dog Days Are Over.”

Once the band hit the bridge of the song, Florence began thanking the fans and introducing the band. She asked the fans for a last request before they finished, “It’s a little tradition and it’s part of the show,” counting down she immediately demonstrated a jump.

“Think of it as a free roller-coaster that doesn’t go anywhere,” she said jokingly, leading the crowd into forming a wave.

“It was amazing, I felt like I was in Nirvana the way she gathered everyone in the audience to jump on the final song,” said concert-goer Luis Resrepl.

The concert also gave the band the opportunity to showcase songs from their forthcoming sophomore album. Starting with the six minute track entitled “Strangeness and Charm,” the band set another change in sound. With a heavy guitar riff and powerful harmony,



Florence and the Machine debut album “Lungs” reached number one in the UK.

Welch’s uplifting lyrics on the pursuit of love presented the crowd with a more assertive side to her music.

“I could definitely hear a more mature sound on the new songs” said Stephanie Sorquira.

The second track from the new album, entitled “What the Water Gave Me,” demonstrated a darker side to the band’s music. Heavily influenced by Phoenix’s “Love Like a Sunset,” the bands use of synthesizers created the perfect build up for the final guitar solo.

With a strong conclusion to the concert it was clear that fans got what they had expected proving why an international band such as Florence+ the machine has gathered such a strong fan base and critical acclaim.



Florence is known for her strong vocals



Lead singer Florence Welch pauses dramatically during her June 30 concert.

Kissimmee's Ethnic Eats: Coqui Snacks & Mini Donuts

By Melissa Lane
mlane@valencivoice.com

Coqui Snacks and Mini Donuts brings the sweet taste of Puerto Rico to Central Florida's backyard. Open seven days a week, they serve up some big Puerto Rico flavor, with island favorites like limbers, piraguas, frituras. But the best of all is right in the name; mini-donas, also known as mini-donuts.

The restaurant gets its name from a sub-species of frog indigenous to Puerto Rico. Coquis are tiny tree frogs whose nighttime songs serenade the island's residents. Coqui Snacks uses a cartoon image



Dorimar Mercado mixes up mini donuts to serve for the day.

Coqui Snacks & Mini Donuts

3018 Lions Ct.
Kissimmee, FL 34744
Sun-Fri 12 - 6 p.m. Sat 12 - 9 p.m.
Price range: \$3-\$8
(407) 846-4126
www.coquisnacks.com

of the frog for its logo.

I am a lover of mom and pop type restaurants, so when I heard about Coqui Snacks and their famous mini donuts I was very eager to check it out. The place itself reminded me of a cozy corner store, the type you can order a pastry or cup of coffee and sit down and relax. I ordered one bag of their mini donuts and another Puerto Rican classic, a beef empanada.

I am a firm believer in saving the sweet for last, so I devoured my empanada. It was not over cooked but perfectly fried to have a nice light crunch and the savory beef on the inside was spiced just right.

My next order of business, my mini-donuts! Served hot and fresh daily, I order mine with powder sugar on top. The first bit certainly had me hooked, these delicious bites a little bigger than a golf ball had such a good taste. The taste reminded me of a carnival funnel cake only packed smaller.

Every bite was better than the first and before I knew it they were all gone. My appetite was satisfied and I know I will be back to try one of Coqui Snacks mini-donut sundaes.



PROGRAMS

UCF VALENCIA OSCEOLA

Applied Science (B.A.S.)

- Criminal Justice
- Health Services Administration
- Information Technology*
- Legal Studies
- Supervision and Administration

Business Administration (B.A.)

Elementary Education (B.S.)

Interdisciplinary Studies (B.A., B.S.)

Psychology (B.S.)

UCF VALENCIA WEST

Applied Science (B.A.S.)

- Criminal Justice
- Health Services Administration
- Information Technology*
- Supervision and Administration

Architecture (B. Des.)

Business Administration (B.A.)

Criminal Justice (B.A., B.S.)

Electrical Engineering (B.S.E.E.)

Elementary Education (B.S.)

Interdisciplinary Studies (B.A., B.S.)

Legal Studies (B.A., B.S.)

Nursing (Concurrent, R.N. to B.S.N.)

Political Science (B.A.)

Psychology (B.S.)

Sociology (B.A.)

*Web-based

*Subject to course substitutions

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Sports Nuts:

A brief conversation

By Rofken Petit-Homme & Bryan Levine
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blevine@valenciavoice.com

Ruf: Dude sorry about last week, unexpected trip to St. Louis. Speaking of, did you know that Albert Pujols was out? I was totally unaware of the situation, does this mean he's going to join the Cubs next year?

BL: Where have you been? Under a rock? Pujols' injury shook the MLB world.

Ruf: Well, I have been watching the rise of soccer in the U.S., especially now that people care about beating the rest of the world in it! Viva la football!!!! The USWNT spanked North Korea and Colombia for the world cup this past weekend!!

BL: Soccer catching on in America? Last week when the men's team played Mexico in the finals, the only channel the game was on was Telemundo. Forget about soccer, last week was 'Free Agency Friday' in the NHL! Some big players changed teams, should be a great season coming up.

Ruf: I heard but I don't care. My two favorite sports, football and basketball, are currently under lockouts. Which means all the little children all across the world will aspire to be NASCAR racers and dream of pitching wedges on the 18th hole of Augusta National!

BL: What is baseball, chopped liver? Last time I checked baseball is still America's past time. Now it has the longest streak, within the four major sports, of not going on strike. It's been 18 years since the last MLB shortened season!

Ruf: First of all, the only people that think baseball is America's past time were born before 1983. Secondly, I have a friend who still boycotts the MLB due to that last strike. Third, the only thing good in baseball right now are the player's wives.

BL: Well, looks like your friend is going to be out of options in a few months when the only two sports to watch are baseball and hockey. The two sports with the least greedy players.

Ruf: College football is the reason why most guys are not going crazy. Baseball and hockey wouldn't know what to do as the number one sport.

BL: Speaking of college football, did you hear the jury in the Plancher v. UCFAA case awarded the Plancher family \$10 million? Good for that family, they can finally have some peace of mind after such a tragedy. In my opinion, George O'Leary needs to be fired. Hopefully this doesn't affect UCF's chance to get into the Big East.

Ruf: There was no way UCF was going to get into the Big East in the first place. C-USA needs them. The award money is way too high; \$5.5 million would have been enough. Expect the ruling to be over-turned; UCF will not go down like this.



Gisele and Enock Plancher are congratulated by their attorneys after being awarded \$10 million for the wrongful death of their son.

Plancher prevails

Family rewarded for pain and suffering

By Bryan Levine
blevine@valenciavoice.com

The jurors of the Plancher v. UCFAA trial came to an agreement hours after the Orange County courthouse was closed for the day on Thursday.

In an unanimous decision, the six men and women who made up the jury ruled in favor of Plancher's parents, establishing that the negligence of the University of Central Florida's Athletic Association led to the death of 20 year old Ereck Plancher.

Giselle and Enock Plancher were awarded \$10 million for their pain and suffering following the death of their son, who died following an off-season practice

March 18, 2008.

"Certainly all those college football players out there who have parents may not have to suffer what these parents went through," said Plancher family attorney Steven Yerrid.

The claims made by the plaintiffs were that head football coach, George O'Leary, and head athletic trainer, Mary Vanden Heimer, did not inform Plancher that he was a carrier of the sickle cell trait. Plancher was tested twice for the trait and was not informed of his positive tests.

Plancher collapsed following a practice which involved an exhausting obstacle course that the players had never seen before.

UCFAA maintains that they did everything possible to try to ensure the safety of the young athlete, and plans to appeal the decision made by the jury on Thursday night.

"There will be an appeal, and we feel very confident that an appellate review will vindicate us and overturn this decision," said UCFAA attorney Grant Heston.

UCFAA tried proving Plancher's death was an accident caused by a pre-existing heart condition that had nothing to do with sickle-cell.

In an interview with the Orlando Sentinel, the Planchers' said they only sued UCFAA in order to find out the truth. The family says they can finally rest now and are very happy with the outcome.