

House Dems leader off to rocky start, B5

Local News

Charges dropped in sex-sting arrest, B3

33.2 million

The estimated number of people living with HIV worldwide in 2007, according to the United Nations.

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Defense must wait on remains



ADAM WALSH
Case closed
Boy's killer identified. Story, B2

By SARAH LUNDY
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

A judge refused Tuesday to let Casey Anthony's lawyer monitor evidence emerging from the discovery of a child's remains last week, saying he wouldn't assist in "interfering with a murder investigation."

Attorney José Baez wanted Circuit Judge Stan Strickland to force investigators to turn over pictures, video and schematic drawings of a wooded area off Suburban Drive where crime-scene technicians continue to collect evidence.

The lawyer also sought permission to conduct a second

autopsy on the bones, along with assurances the remains would be preserved for examination by his experts. Strickland refused these requests, too, saying Baez would have to wait until the state completes its inquiry.

Authorities have not identified the decomposed remains found in a plastic bag, but

many suspect they are those of Anthony's missing daughter, Caylee Marie, who was last seen in June. Anthony, 22, is charged with first-degree murder in the case.

Strickland conceded the circumstances were unusual — people usually are charged with murder after a body is found, not before. He said he

understood why Baez filed the requests but that he couldn't tell the medical examiner what to do or interfere with authorities' process.

"There is not a time clock on an investigation," he said.

Baez said media reports have shown investigators sift-

PLEASE SEE **REMAINS, B4**

BITTERSWEET GRADUATION

Nicole Ganguzza would have earned her master's from UCF if she hadn't been killed. Her husband accepted the diploma for the degree awarded to her posthumously.

By SATTI SARMAH
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

In a sea of gold tassels, flashing cameras, and black caps and gowns, Brendan Ganguzza — the husband of slain University of Central Florida graduate student Nicole Ganguzza — sat among his wife's peers, waiting to receive a diploma for the degree the university awarded to her posthumously.

Ganguzza listened as the commencement speaker, Sheila McDevitt, told graduates to be hopeful. "We live in a complicated world, a world of subtlety and ambiguity, [but] the best things are yet to come," she said.

Ganguzza, who was wearing a blue bracelet with the words "live, life, love and laugh" in honor of his wife, probably understood how complicated the world can be better than anyone else at the graduation

ceremony.

On Tuesday, he tried to hold back tears as he walked across the stage at the UCF Arena in his wife's place.

He got a standing ovation as he received her diploma for her master's degree in marriage and family therapy.

The feeling was bittersweet, Ganguzza's family said.

"If she was here, she would have had a big cheese for the camera and would have been skipping off the stage after she re-



NICOLE GANGUZZA



RICARDO RAMÍREZ BUXEDA/ORLANDO SENTINEL

UCF Education Dean Sandra L. Robinson gives Brendan Ganguzza his wife's diploma during a graduation ceremony Tuesday at UCF.

PLEASE SEE **DIPLOMA, B5**

State budget deficit

Stark choice: Taxes or services

By AARON DESLATTE
TALLAHASSEE BUREAU

TALLAHASSEE — Florida's ruling Republican lawmakers, scurrying to prepare for a budget-cutting special session in two weeks, also face a grim fork in the road in the months ahead: raise new taxes or radically slash the size of government.

Lawmakers returned to work Tuesday facing a special session set to start Jan. 5 that will require slashing nearly \$2.3 billion from the current budget.

Lawmakers are likely to do so largely by tapping excess cash sitting in state trust funds and making permanent spending reductions already ordered by Gov. Charlie Crist.

"We obviously don't have a lot of time to hit the ground running," said Rep. Marcelo Llorente, R-Miami, who chairs the House general government and health-care budget committee.

But the hole they'll face next year is far more somber.

Short of a tax increase, Gov. Charlie Crist's office is weighing options for the 2009-10 budget that include eliminating as many as 2,356 state government positions — including potentially 1,000 layoffs.

Crist's office is measuring savings from potential state-employee work furloughs and imposing a pay cut of about 7 percent for most state employees, records show.

Crist's office has cautioned that all the options are still just "ideas" but reflect the general resistance of Republicans to raising taxes during hard economic times.

The governor has said repeatedly he isn't "warm and fuzzy" to the idea of raising the state's cigarette tax, and House budget writers have said there is no

PLEASE SEE **DEFICIT, B2**



Short of a tax increase, Gov. Charlie Crist's office is weighing options for the 2009-10 budget that include eliminating as many as 2,356 state government positions — including potentially 1,000 layoffs.

Special interests jump on political newcomers

During Tom Feeney's last campaign, the wine and spirits wholesalers were strong supporters.

They cut his campaign one check for \$1,000. Then another for \$2,000. Yet another for \$500. And a couple more \$1,000 ones, just for good measure.

There was no doubt about it: Feeney was the alcohol lobby's guy in Florida's 24th District.

At least he was, until he lost reelection.

So 16 days after the election, the Wine & Spirits Wholesalers PAC cut a \$1,000 check to the woman who beat Feeney, Suzanne Kosmas.

After all, why send a Hallmark that says you're sorry for backing the wrong horse when a four-figure check says so much more?

At least five other interests that previously had funded Feeney quickly cut checks to Kosmas after she won.

Orlando Democrat Alan Grayson received \$1,000 from a previous supporter of now-defeated Republican Ric Keller as well.

And you can find similar examples of other newly elected members — from Connecticut to California and from both political parties — who suddenly received money from everyone from banks and booze to rail companies and Wall Street firms that had previously funded their opponents.

And this was all during just the



COMMENTARY

Scott Maxwell

TAKING NAMES

first 20 days after the election — the most recent reports available.

Welcome to America — where the candidates may say they're not for sale, but where the special interests are certainly still trying to take out a lease.

Besides the Wine & Spirits guys, Feeney donors who quickly turned into Kosmas fans included American Airlines, Bank of America, the telecom industry and the Holland & Knight law firm.

Poor Holland & Knight. Those guys actually backed two losing incumbents in Central Florida. So they had to make double the penance payments.

Which is why the firm also gave Grayson \$1,000 . . . after previously giving Keller \$3,000.

Questions to both Holland & Knight and the Wine & Spirit Wholesalers — about what it was they suddenly

PLEASE SEE **MAXWELL, B2**