



MARENGO VALEDICTORIAN TURNED VOLLEYBALL STAR NOW AUTHOR



Travel the world-check

Play volleyball in college-check

Call it a bucket list, or simply a list of things to do before she dies...Marengo High School graduate, Britten Follett was assigned to come up with that list as part of an assignment during her junior year at MCHS in April of 1998. Twelve years later, she's accomplished one of the most challenging goals on that list.

Write a book-check

When Britten gave her Valedictorian address at graduation, she told her fellow graduates one day she would be a television reporter. After she graduated college, Britten spent two years a reporter in Rockford. Now she's a reporter and weekend anchor at KOKH, the Fox affiliate in Oklahoma City.

As a reporter, Britten discovered the story that inspired her book. Despite ten months of abuse documented by child welfare workers, two-year-old Kelsey Smith-Briggs died in her home. Either her mother or her step-father beat her to

death, just days before her biological father was scheduled to come home from his tour of duty in Iraq. No one has been convicted of her murder. Through her coverage of this story, Britten began a five year crusade to expose the system that failed Kelsey. Kelsey's death became the most high-profile child abuse case in Oklahoma state history.

Britten and Cherokee Ballard, another reporter in Oklahoma City teamed up to tell the story behind Kelsey's case. Who Killed Kelsey? is not just about the two main suspects. A series of people failed the beautiful blond girl. Britten says, "If one parent or child welfare worker learns from the mistakes made in Kelsey's case, then maybe I can add an item to my bucket list."

Save a child's life-check.

Britten's goal is to share Kelsey's story with the world. Who Killed Kelsey? is available though the book's website www.whokilledkelsey.com and Amazon.

Britten says, "Writing a book is truly a dream come true. Now I can set my sights on the rest of my bucket list."



LOCAL DOG FEATURED ON ANIMAL PLANET

Last fall Animal Planet aired their 2nd season of Dogs101. The series features various dog breeds of the world. Season 2 features the New Guinea Singing

Dog. They are extremely rare and believed to be the oldest dog breed on earth. They are a barkless breed closely related to the Australian Dingo. Barkless does not mean silent however. As evidenced by their name, Singing Dogs are the Poverotti's of the canine world. This extremely rare dog that can be found right

here in Marengo. Local resident Tom Wendt is the co-founder of "New Guinea Singing Dog International" an organization dedicated to conserving the breed. After the organization rescued a pair of pups last summer, Animal Planet contacted the organization looking to film some Singing Dog pups for their show. By November the rescued pups Lexie & Marlie were featured on their Dogs 101 Rare Breeds Special. Lexie (the star of the show) is currently here in Marengo with Tom along with his original Singing Dog Rusty. The rescued pups have now found a forever home at Cohanzick Zoo in

New Jersey and will be delivered sometime this spring. If you don't know Tom or have met his NGSD's, head to <http://animal.discovery.com/tv/dogs-101/> to find the show next airing. Youtube also features a shortened segment on the NGSD. More can be learned about the breed at <http://www.freewebs.com/singingdogs>. Dog Article